CNMI Judiciary disputes \$1.6M of \$2.4M unpaid utility services. PAGE 2 Hafa Adail Presumptive Eligibility benefits expired yesterday. PAGE 7

Salpan Iribune Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 94

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023

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'Gov't drowning in financial deficit'



enate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said yesterday that the CNMI govern-



ment is in a deep financial deficit and utilities is one of its greatest expenses to maintain op-See GOV'T on Page 4 erations.

USS Milius makes port call on Saipan

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI welcomed another visiting Department of Defense-vessel just a week after Milius DDG 69, a U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyer, bringing in over 300 visitors to Saipan last Tuesday.

The USS Milius sailed into the Port of Saipan at around See PORT on Page 4

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero recently presented at the public hearing held by the Division of Coastal Resources Management for NMC's major siting permit of NMC's proposal to build its student center and other new buildings on the college's As Terlaje campus. The hearing, which happened last Tuesday, had many NMC students, employees, and community members voicing support for the college's new buildings. The major siting permit, which is required for most large-scale building projects in the CNMI, is approved by a board consisting of the Department of Commerce, the Division of Environmental Quality, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Works, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Historic Preservation Office,

40 to 50-member NMI delegation in Hawaii workshop

» NMI delegation seeks to maximize funds from federal programs

'TOUCHBACK Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie delatorre@saipantribune.com

The CNMI has about 40 to 50 members of a delegation that is participating in the five-day 2023 Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop in Hawaii organized by the Office of Insular Affairs of the U.S. Department of Interior specifically for U.S. territories. Saipan Tribune learned yes-

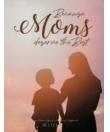
terday that representatives of different CNMI government agencies, including Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), See WORKSHOP on Page 4

From left to right, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Commander Leif Gunderson pose for a photo following a brief tour of the USS Milius DDG 69 yesterday afternoon. The Milius is the second naval vessel to visit the CNMI in the last week

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES



INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

Today's issue of Saipan Tribune comes with a pullout supplement that celebrates Mother's

» PAGE X



NATION

U.S. Rep. George Santos, known for fabricating his life story, pleaded not guilty to charges of duping donors.

PAGE 27



OFF THE WALL

Several scaleless fish with fanged jaws have washed up along a stretch of Oregon coastline.

PAGE 29



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

2 FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Local

CNMI Judiciary disputes \$1.6M of \$2.4M unpaid utility services

» CUC reading shows 18,000% increase in Judiciary's monthly water use

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary is disputing \$1.6 million of the

\$2.4 million in utility services that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. claims the Judiciary has failed to pay.



CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja informed acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje in a letter Wednesday that they are disputing the sum of \$1,680,185 for the Guma' Hustisia building on Saipan.

Specifically, Castro and Naraja said, the Judiciary has been incorrectly charged \$774,636 for water and \$905,548 for wastewater/ sewer services from July 2022 to the present.

Terlaje sent disconnection notices last May 3 to several government agencies, including the Judiciary, over unpaid utility services as of March 31, 2022.

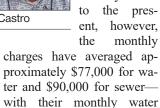
Terlaje gave the Judiciary until May 18, 2023 to pay or settle the \$2,486,634 to avoid power and water disconnection to Judiciary facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In the Judiciary's response to Terlaje's notice, Castro and Naraja asked for a meeting to discuss the matter and reach an amicable solution.

Castro and Naraja also pointed out that, beginning in July 2022, the Guma' Hustisia's water and sewer usage exponentially spiked and that this was "highly unusual" since their water consumption and sewer discharge had not changed in any significant way to warrant the inexplicable charge.

Prior to July 2022, their monthly water and sewer

charges averaged \$628 and \$500, respectively, they said. Beginning in July 2022 to the present, however, the monthly



consumption reportedly go-

ing up from 8,877 gallons to

1,633,036 gallons.
"This was drastic increase of approximately 18,000%," said Castro and Naraja, adding that they expect to resolve this discrepancy through CUC's

dispute resolution process.

The Judiciary receives its operations and utilities funds through annual legislative appropriations. Historically, though, the Judiciary has been receiving insufficient amounts to meet these obligations, Castro and Naraja said.

"We now face the difficult choice to completely shut down judicial operations for our people on Tinian and Rota, and cut family court, drug court, and mental health court services on Saipan," the two officials said.

They said they dispute CUC's meter reading beginning in July 2022.





Man sues for \$300K after slipping at gaming arcade

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.cor REPORTER

A man has filed a civil suit against a local gaming establishment after he slipped and fell, claiming it was the establishment's negligence that led to his fall. Daniel A. Mensah is suing Dongfang Trading Corp., which does business as Happy Poker II, after he

slipped and fell inside what ney Matthew Holley, is he claims was a wet and slippery restroom.

ney Matthew Holley, is asking the Superior Court to grant him relief in the

Mensah, through attor-

Art contest winner to hold exhibit at 360

The 2023 CNMI Congressional Art Competition winner, Junseo "June" Kim, will be showcasing his art at the 360 Restaurant of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, with the exhibit set to open tonight at 6pm.

The exhibit at 360 and will feature not only the talents of Kim, but also the

сонтявите рнотоз Junseo "June" Kim's art pieces.

equally beautiful artwork of fellow schoolmate and artist Claire Park. Both Park and Kim's displayed pieces will mainly consist of themes related to Saipan and nature, and will remain on display from May 12, 2023 until May 19, 2023.

The artists' families, friends, and school peers at Saipan International School are inviting the CNMI community and art lovers to come and see the exhibit.

For more information or inquiries email herenuisong@gmail.com or a.mcroberts@sissaipan.net. (Chrystal Marino)



ney Matthew Holley, is asking the Superior Court to grant him relief in the amount of \$300,000 for pain and suffering, emotional distress, mental anguish and diminished quality of life.

The plaintiff is also requesting the CNMI Superior Court for a mandatory mediation, and if that is unsuccessful, he wants the court to issue a judgment for compensatory damages, economic and non-economic, for medical care and expenses, and bodily injury in an amount to be proven at trial.

According to court docu-

ments, back on Dec. 10, 2021, the plaintiff slipped and fell after he walked into Happy Poker II's restroom, which he claims was wet, causing a slippery floor.

The plaintiff said he sustained injuries due to the fall. Specifically, the plaintiff said he suffered serious personal injuries that required hospitalization under the care of professional medical staff.

Mensah further alleged in his lawsuit that there were no signs or adequate signs to warn the establishment's customers, invitees, licensees or guests of the danger on the premises.



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USCIS celebrates Public Service Recognition Week

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is honoring its dedicated workforce during Public Service Recognition Week, May 7-13. Celebrated during the first full week in May since 1985, Public Service Recognition Week is a time set aside to honor those who serve our nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees.

"The work USCIS employees perform each day makes it possible for so many immigrants to realize their dream of calling America home, while enriching our nation as a whole," said USCIS director Ur M. Jaddou. "As an agency, we continue to improve our systems in order to

provide the best possible experience to those we serve. To that end, last year we set out to hire more personnel, and I am delighted that USCIS welcomed nearly 3,000 new employees to our agency in 2022, and more than 4,000 USCIS employees have grown into new positions within the agency."

In January, USCIS released its FY 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, which provides a roadmap for the agency's workforce to better strengthen its capabilities and help the country reach its highest ideals. The plan is grounded in USCIS' longstanding purpose and core values in support of a meaningful commitment to making the United States a stronger, more inclusive, and welcoming nation. One of the goals of this plan is to invest in our workforce: attract, recruit, train, and retain a diverse, flexible, and resilient workforce that drives highquality organizational performance and is representative of who we are as a nation. In April, USCIS released its 2023-2026 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Strategic Plan, marking the agency's first comprehensive strategy to incorporate a culture of DEIA principles as a foundational element of its daily work.

In March, the Department of Homeland Security announced the 2023 Secretary's Awards. A total of 144 USCIS employees received a Secretary's Award in nearly every category: Exceptional Service Gold Medal, Meritorious Service Silver Medal, Leadership Excellence, Innovation, Team Excellence, Champion of Equity, and Volunteer Service. As part of the Public Service Recognition Week celebrations, USCIS held its annual Director's Awards ceremony and will host other activities and events focused on recognizing the important contributions of the USCIS workforce.

Since opening its doors for the first time on March 3, 2003, following the creation of DHS, USCIS has grown from around 9,000 employees to over 20,000 employees, in more than 200 offices around the country and the world—the highest staffing levels in the 20-year history of the agency. USCIS encourages the public to learn more about the agency's mission, its role in the nation's legal immigration process, and how the USCIS workforce changes lives each day. (USCIS)

Simulation suggests 2020 census missed many noncitizens

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

New results from a U.S. Census Bureau simulation indicate a significant number of noncitizens were missed in the 2020 census, a national head count during which the Trump administration tried to prevent people in the United States illegally from being tallied at all.

Some civil rights groups pointed to the bureau's latest findings as evidence that, despite the Trump administration's failure to exclude residents in the country illegally from the 2020 count altogether, the former president's push contributed to an undercount for some racial and ethnic minorities.

A simulated head count by the statistical agency utilized 31 types of administrative records from government agencies and thirdparty sources to produce estimates of the U.S. population on April 1, 2020 that could be compared to the survey-like responses used in the last official tally of every U.S. resident. The simulation was an experiment which doesn't change the results of the once-a-decade count of every U.S. resident that helps determine political power and the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal funding in the U.S.

GOV'T

From Page 1

DeLeon Guerrero said any effort to save energy cost helps, but as a unit of government, they must explore opportunities to drive down the costs of utilities.

The Senate president discussed the government's unpaid power and water services in response to Saipan Tribune's request for comments about the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s issuance of disconnection notices to government agencies, including to the Legislature Bureau.

CUC has given the Legislative Bureau only until May 18, 2023, to pay its accumulated outstanding balance in the amount of \$38,487 over several delinquent utility accounts as of March 31, 2023.

In his response to CUC's disconnection notice, Legislative Bureau director Perry John P. Tenorio said they aim to settle all arrears by the May 18 deadline.

DeLeon Guerrero said yesterday that she has been working closely with Tenorio to look into alternative sources of energy.

"We have begun the requests for quotes on this," said the Senate president, adding that they will pursue funding opportunities from federal grants to achieve this effort.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Bureau is working on its backup generator project, DeLeon Guerrero said.

While looking into alternative energy, they must also simultaneously utilize their legislative oversight powers to address the serious financial dilemma the government is in, she said.

The Senate president said the government's deficit is more than 150% of their prior total local revenues and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic revenues.

"This is very scary and not good financial management of our government," DeLeon Guerrero said.

On Aug. 3 last year, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, which De-Leon Guerrero had chaired, met with CUC duriung which they discussed various questions and concerns that the committee had regarding the Fuel Adjustment Charge.

As a result of that meeting, the committee recommended for CUC to fully disclose all the items such as bad debt and volatility rates that are included in the rate review to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Corp. so that paying customers are fully aware of what and why they are paying so much.

The committee report recommended that CUC review the cases of businesses and private residents on a case-by-case basis so that financial promises can be filled without disconnection of utilities.

The report recommended for CUC to use energy futures market or fuel price method program to reduce the price risk swings in world oil markets, essentially safeguarding CUC customers from the inherent volatility of fuel prices and to contact other jurisdictions that hedge their oil such as American Samoa and Palau to see how they do it.

The committee report also recommended for CUC to consider eliminating the \$7 monthly customer charge and to place their customer security deposits into an account that has a higher yield.

WORKSHOP

From Page 1

Sen. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian), and Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan), are joining the workshop, to identify funding opportunities for critical CNMI projects and to engage officials from key federal agencies.

In response to Saipan Tribune's inquiry, the Office of the Governor said travel costs for the CNMI delegation's participants use different federal funds that agencies have received and managed through various programs.

The workshop kicked off last May 8 and will end on May 12. The venue is the Hawaii Convention Center.

The goal of the workshop is to convene U.S. territories like the CNMI, federal agencies, and other important partners to collaborate and deliver significant climate and infrastructure support, including financial support, as provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

Public Works Secretary Ray N. Yumul, who is a member of the delegation, said there are 40 to 50 participants from the CNMI and that the head of the delegation is Christina E. Marie Sablan for the Office of the Governor, and Henry Hofschneider for Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang's office.

Babauta couldn't tell how many persons compose the CNMI delegation as they are scattered all over the convention center.

Babauta said they break out into sessions with federal grant programs from the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, OIA, U.S. Government Services, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Safety, Maritime Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Energy, and Federal Emergency Management Office.

As a result of these direct interactions with the CNMI's federal grantors, they provide direct technical assistance with funding opportunities, Babauta said.

She said she has met with and invited the Army Corps of Engineers to come to Saipan to provide needed technical assistance. The senator said the Army Corps is expected to be in the CNMI for about two weeks.

Babauta said she will also be meeting today with Vince Mantero, who is the director of Ports and Waterways Planning from the Maritime Administration, to maximize the CNMI's Jones Act waiver under the Covenant with the United States.

"This will eventually lead to having interisland ferry service between Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam in the very near future," Babauta said.

The senator said she is confident that the CNMI will have interisland ferry service, where people can load their vehicles when traveling to Saipan, Tinian, or Rota.

"This will enhance interisland air service in our Marianas," she added.

According to the Office of the Governor, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Apatang have stressed the need to expedite infrastructure projects (along with identifying and pursuing funds that can support these projects), and the engagement with federal partners at the workshop will help in this effort.

Equally important, the workshop will help connect agencies like DPW, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Ports Authority, Public School System, and others to specific grant opportunities to advance their organizational goals and needs, the Office of the Governor said.

Topics addressed in the workshop include water, energy, built infrastructure, invasive species, naturebased solutions, broadband, cleanup, revitalization, and recycling.

PORT

From Page 1

9:40am this week and it is expected leave today.

According to Commander Leif Gunderson, commanding officer of the Milius, the crew of about 350 men and women were delighted by their stay on Saipan.

"We are here and we are delighted to be here. The crew of Milius has been out operating in the Indo-Pacific region for the past couple of months and has been doing a lot of good work out there for presence and security in the region. We are super excited to be here [on] Saipan. All the rich history and culture that we've experienced just makes us delighted to be here," he said.

Gunderson said this is Milius' third time on Saipan.

"I believe we've been coming to Saipan since 2015. The last time we were here was in 2019. We're trying to expand our opportunities to come back. This port visit doesn't just give us the opportunity to replenish the ship and do maintenance, but it also gives the crew an opportunity for rest and recovery," he said.

The Milius is a guided missile destroyer with a multi-mission platform that focuses on providing security in the region. The ship, which is based off Yokosuka, Japan, was commissioned in 1996.

"We can do anything, from air warfare, ballistic missile defense, just across the board as we're a multimission platform. We were in Busan last month. [Prior to that] we did a Taiwan transit," Gunderson said.

Brad Ruszala, the public affairs specialist for Joint Region Marianas, joined in welcoming the ship last Tuesday and said the back-toback DOD ship visits is great news for the CNMI.

"Whether they come by air or sea, we love to welcome our servicemen and servicewomen to the Marianas. It's great to have the USS Milius back [on] Saipan for the first time since 2019. Our economy definitely receives an economic boost when they arrive and it gives us another opportunity to show our island hospitality. Having the USS Milius and the USS Emory S. Land visit us in backto-back weeks is great for Saipan and the CNMI as a whole. I hope the Navy continues sending ships our way," he said.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, who was also on hand last Tuesday to welcome the ship, said his administration is always happy to welcome Naval ships to the islands.

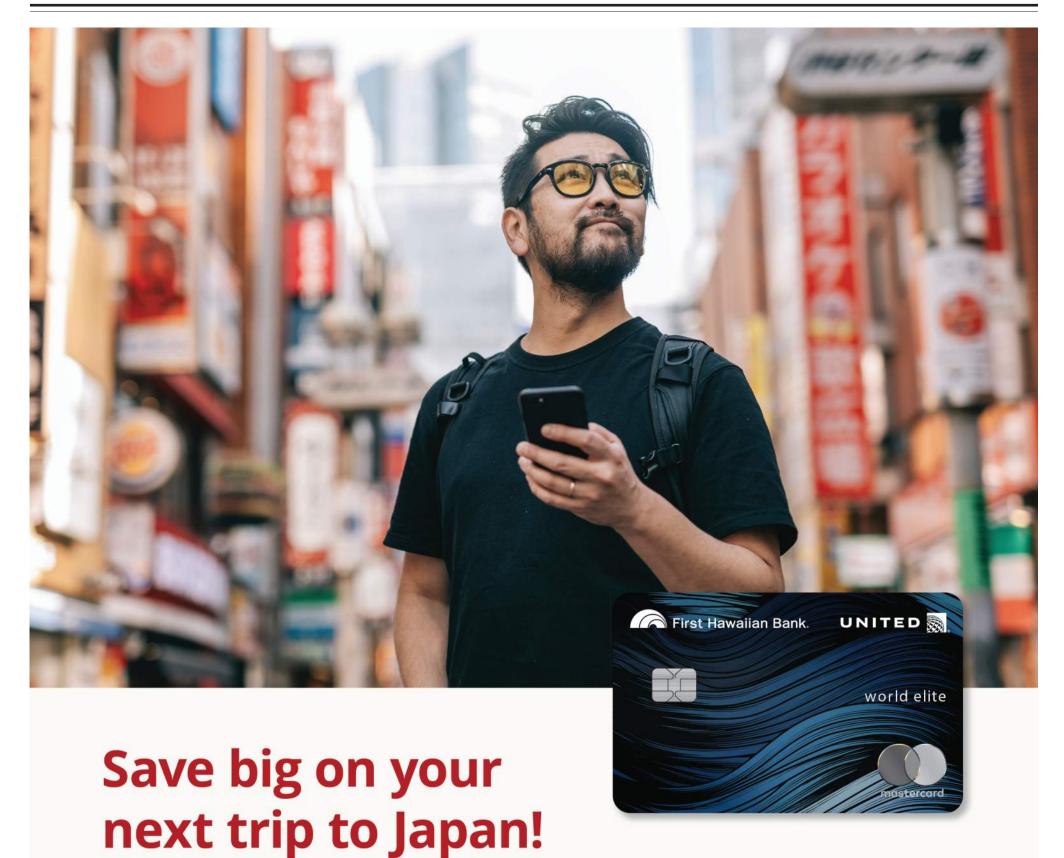
"We're very happy to welcome them because they have been out there protecting us. Having them stop here for a port call provides the crew with a nice break. We hope to welcome them back again. We ask that they come back whenever they have a chance to. They are always welcome here. With COVID, the port calls were minimized but now that that's behind us, we look forward to more Naval ship presence in the CNMI," he said.

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang thanked the crew for their service and for visiting the CNMI.

"I just want to say thank you to the crew of [the Milius]. We thank you for visiting us. I'm sure you've all enjoyed your stay here on Saipan. We look forward to having you guys back here again. We always love to see our military here on Saipan," he said.

Apatang also honored Capt. Paul L. Milius, after whom the ship is named, as he is a fellow Vietnam war veteran

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 **5**



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BUSINESS HOURS: Monday to Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Ylalim is selected as AGA scholarship recipient

The Association of Government Accountants Guam Chapter scholarship program has awarded \$500 to Guam Community College student Cleo Ylalim, who is working toward his associate degree in Accounting and is anticipated to finish in spring 2024. The \$500 scholarship from the AGA Guam Chapter was presented on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

The scholarship availability was announced in January 2023 and was open to students who intend to pursue an associate degree in

Attorney at Law Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)

Attorney for Claimant Bank of Guam

Deceased.

the Chenchon area below the Rota Airport.

RAMON M. SABLAN,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of an Order made by the Court nd entered in the above-titled action on the 21st of March 2023, by the Superior Court of

the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Claimant Bank of Guam in the above-titled action, as prescribed in the Order

Approving Judicial Sale of Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at

public auction, to the highest bidder, on June 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at Robert T. Torres Law Office, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth

Lot 646 R 112, contains an area of 929 square meters. The property is located in

Notice: The property boundaries are subject to the buyer's survey at the buyer's own cost. The map below is the approximate location of the property, without any

of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in the said judgment, to wit:

Public Sale. The auction shall be open to the general public.

With Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and

applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction

sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties

 a. withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing

to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com.

be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days

of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check.

Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by

the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any

change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written

or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or

property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to schedule viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to

inspect the real property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment, or rescission

changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the

Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must

Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Estate Admijnistratrix reserve the right to

Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and

/s/ Robert T. Torres

Robert T. Torres. Auctioneer

 to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

to reject any and all bids.

of the property will revert to the Claimant Bank of Guam.

by any buyer. **DATED** this 13th day of April 2023.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF] Civil Action No. 17-0256 (R)

Robert Tenorio Torres

Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-7859 Fax. (670) 234-5749 Accounting at GCC.

The AGA Guam Chapter is sponsored and funded jointly by AGA and private sector contributors in order to "advance government accountability" and transparency in all government levels by reaching out to all accountability professionals from accounting technicians to accountants.

"Scholarships are a great way for students to cover the cost of their education here at GCC. We are grateful for the AGA Guam Chapter and their continued support of our accounting students,"

NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE OF LOT 646 R 112 said Gemma-Lee Santos, financial aid coordinator at GCC. "If students do not qualify for a Pell Grant or receive a full Pell Grant award, we help students find other means to finance

their education. Scholar-ships are a great way to accomplish just that." 735-5543. Those interested can also log on to guamcc. edu/financialaid. Financial

To schedule a time with the GCC financial aid team email financialaid@ guamcc.edu or call (671) 735-5543. Those interested can also log on to guamcc. edu/financialaid. Financial aid office is open Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm in the Administration Building No. 2000. (GCC)



GC

From left, Ritzmar Erni, Association of Government Accountants Guam Chapter committee co-director; Dr. Zeny Nace, CGFM, CPA, CFE, AGA Guam Chapter Scholarship Committee advisor; Lorraine Okada, Guam Community College Foundation board of governors chairperson; Cleo Ylalim, scholarship awardee; Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president; Jorizaira Borja, AGA Guam Chapter Scholarship Committee director; and Gemma-Lee Santos, GCC financial aid coordinator.

W NORTH

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS FOR CUC TINIAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-015, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 12, 2023, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 22, 2023 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Evelyn Manglona, CUC Tinian Resident Manager, via email evelyn.manglona@cucgov.org, Louella Mundo, CUC Warehouse Technician via email louella.mundo@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN Purchasing Administrator

Presumptive Eligibility benefits expired yesterday

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com

The National Public Health Emergency, which gave nearly everyone access to free or affordable medical care through Presumptive Eligibility Medicaid, officially expired yesterday, putting an end to PE benefits.

Back in February, President Joe Biden ended the twin national emergencies for addressing COVID-19 effective May 11, specifically the National Emergency and Public Health Emergency declarations.

According to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña, Presumptive Medicaid is tied to the Public Health Emergency. This means once the PHE ends, so does Presumptive Eligibility benefits.

However, CHCC had hoped that continuous coverage under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 202 would provide an extension for Presumptive Eligibility benefits past the end of the emergency declaration.

But recently, upon further clarification, it was determined that Presumptive Eligibility coverage will expire on the same day following the National Public Health Emergency end date of May 11, 2023, with no plans to extend this benefit.

Because of this, the CNMI Medicaid highly encourages all affected members to complete a full Medicaid application as soon as possible to avoid disruption in health care services.

"The Commonwealth Medicaid Agency is committed to ensuring all affected members are given an opportunity to be determined for continued benefits. CMA apologizes for any confusion

and is working diligently to assure its members' healthcare services are not disrupted abruptly. We kindly ask for your patience and understanding as we explore other options for members who may no longer be eligible for regular Medicaid benefits with the limited resources available," said the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency in a previous news release.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING

1 (ONE) TRAVEL CLERK

HOURLY RATE: \$12.00 - \$14.85 WORK 4 - 6 HOURS, FLEXIBLE FROM 8:30AM - 4:30PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY

> PLEASE CALL/TEXT @ (670) 287-3903/483-1618 CONDITONS MAY CHANGE



P.O. BOX 500861 CK

TEL: (670) 664-3200/1

FAX: (670) 664-3237

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.



MEETING AGENDA

1) Preliminary Matters

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes
- i. April 19, 2023 Special **Board Meeting**

2) Public Comments

3) Committee Reports a Finance Committee

- i Fund Status
 - ii. Reprograming of Funds
- iii. FY 24 Governor's Budget Submission
- AdHoc Committee Updates
 - i. Japan

4) Old Business

- RFP for Office Space
- MVA-CT-22-2044 Garapan Area Trash Collection & **Ground Maintenance Services**

5) New Business

- a. Board Resolution Bank Signatories
- Travel Per Diem Rates
- MVA -21-2026 Local Public Relations & Media Services Option to Renew
- d. CDBG-DR Global Branding
- ii. Expenditure Plan
- Japan Air Service

6) Executive Session

Miscellaneous/Announcements

- a. Next Regular Board Meeting
- b. Others

8) Adjournment

/s/Gloria Cavanagh Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



CALL FOR **DELIVERY & CARRYOUT** ON SAIPAN (670) 235-9333







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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PD 80X 50 1056-\$AIPAN-MP-98950
PHONE: (1-870) 237-5500/1 - FAX: (1-870) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: CPa.Admin@Pitcom.com - Wessite: https://www.cnmiports.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Retail Concession" CPA-RFP-005-23

for: CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the traveling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Retail Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is April 20, 2023, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport or at the administration office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) by or before 4:00 p.m. on May 23, 2023, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Executive Director

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Scheduled power service interruption for Lower **Navy Hill**

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, for Lower Navy Hill, from 9am to 1pm.

■ Area(s) affected: Lower Navy Hill (Saluda St., Publiko

Dr., Laluw Ln., & Pattida Dr.)

- Purpose: For the line crew to replace two defective primary poles.
- Water well(s) fected: None
- Wastewater facility affected: None
 - Traffic light(s) af-

fected: None

For the safety of our crew, motorists are advised to use caution while driving in the area. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates

(https://www.facebook.com/ CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). (PR)

4.9-magnitude quake near Merizo

At 3:43am on May 11 2023, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred 158 kilometers south-southwest of Merizo Village, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

5.0-magnitude quake southwest of Merizo

At 8:31am on May 10, 2023, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred 149 kilometers southwest of Merizo Village, Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Water service interruption for Capital Hill TSA

There will be a scheduled water service interruption tomorrow, May 13, 2023, for the Capital Hill Tank Service Area, from 8:30am to 2:30pm.

- Area(s) affected: Capitol Hill; Wireless Ridge, Talafofo, I-Denni, and portions of Papago;
- Purpose: The scheduled water outage is necessary for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water operators to repair a mainline leak on Marshall Loop on Capital Hill:
- Road (s) affected: CUC operators will be working on the shoulder of the eastbound lane. For the safety of our crew, motorists are advised to use caution while driving in the area.

tact the CUC Hotline at (670)

236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/ CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). **(PR)**

SHRM membership meeting today

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will host a membership meeting today, May 12, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort Sunflower Ballroom, from 11:30pm to 2:30pm. Doors will open at 11am.

John J. Rivera, director of HR & Corporate Development at Citadel Pacific, Ltd., will guide SHRM members in unlocking personality type and provide tools to leverage the understanding of people in the workplace, improve leadership, and socially engineer more conducive working environments.

The following fees apply:

- \$30 for members
- \$35 for non-members

This meeting will include lunch. Seating is limited. (PR)

Free PTAC webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars for May 2023. Webinars are held every Thursday from 10am to 11:30am via Zoom. Zoom links are emailed to all registered attendees 30 minutes before the webinar. Register at https://www.guamptac.com/ news-and-events.php (PTAC)



GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING MAY 16, 2023

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers

TUESDAY MAY 16, 2023

From

4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m3f41df45f43a5819a266f63a13173730

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, Access Code:27617607874##), or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: HNjQwD9m*32

Benefits Workshop Topics:
Compensation, Service Connection, Pension, Homeless, COD, MST, Women Veterans, Education & Training, Veteran Readiness & Employment, PACT Act, Home Loan Guaranty, DIC, Survivors' Pension, & Burial and Plot Internment Allowance



For more information, con-



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315 www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315 www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas Director, DCRM

AMENDED NOTICE OF DCRM PUBLIC HEARING

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (Action Agency) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (Owner) SUGAR DOCK RECONSTRUCTION & DREDGING PROJECT

(RESCHEDULE FROM MAY 18TH to MAY 30TH)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SAIPAN AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL BUILDING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following projects:

CRM Major Siting Application No. CRM-MS2023-0006 - The Departments of Public Works (DPW) and Public Lands (DPL) are proposing to reconstruct the Sugar Dock and boat launching ramp facilities situated on public land identified as Lot No. 058 H 02 in Susupe, Saipan. The public property contains an area of about 14.919 square feet or 0.34 acres.

CRM Major Siting Application No. SMS-2003-X-007-A1 (Amendment) - The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is proposing to demolish the existing commuter terminal building at the Saipan International Airport and to construct a new building within the same existing footprint. The project, in general, includes installation/construction of new fuel line, new covered walkway, new terminal facility with four (4) airlines offices and counter space, restaurant vendor space, restrooms for departure and arrivals, lactating room, office space/counter for U.S. Customs and Border Protection including all associated work specified in the design and specification plans.

The public hearing for these projects is scheduled on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan

Virtual public participation is available via video conferencing through Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315). Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend virtually or in-person, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.. Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Sugar Dock Reconstruction and Dredging project and the Reconstruction of the Saipan Airport Commuter Terminal Building project.

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS

Director, DCRM

Division of Coastal Resources Management



CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal

Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 10:00AM at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan

Virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order B. Roll Call
- C Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of January 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
 - 1) CRM Permit Application No. CRM-MS2022-0005

Project: NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE SAIPAN CAMPUS AND FACILITIES

Applicant: NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE (NMC) The Northern Marianas College is proposing to construct and enhance its Saipan campus and facilities situated on Tract No. 21699 in As Terlaje, Saipan. The project will be completed in seven (7) phases beginning with the Student Center building.

- b. Agencies' Final Determination
- 2) CRM Permit Application No. CRM-MS2022-0006

Project: SUGAR DOCK RECONSTRUCTION & DREDGING PROJECT

Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (Action Agency) & DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (Owner) The Departments of Public Works (DPW) and Public Lands (DPL) are proposing to reconstruct the Sugar Dock and boat launching ramp facilities to include dredging. The project is situated on public land identified as Lot No. 058 H 02

- in Susupe, Saipan. The CRM Board will not be issuing a final decision on the application at this meeting.
- c. Project Presentation by Applicant's Authorized Representative, Marianas Environmental Services (MES).
- d. Agencies' Discussion Applicant requesting for advice in identifying an upland site for the dredged materials. IV OTHER MATTERS
 - 1) CNMI Multi-Agency Inspection Team (CMAIT)

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS

Director, DCRM

M2 Fitness Zumba warmup at Marianas Tourism Month 5K

M2 Fitness will be offering a Zumba warmup for the Marianas Tourism Month 5K Fun Run on May 20, 2023, at Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan.

M2 Fitness Strong Zumba Movers will conduct a 20-minute warmup at the starting line at 6:3am prior to the start of the 5K at 7am.

Mary Grace Bautista, founder/coach of M2 Fitness, thanks MVA for allowing M2 Fitness to be part of this event.

Registration is \$10 and is open at raceroster.com/events/2023/75098/marianas-

tourismmonth-5k-fun-run. Registration will also be held at the starting line on the day of the run beginning at 6am, with the fun run proceeding south on Saipan Beach Road Pathway to Quartermaster Road and back.

For added fun, participants are invited to dress as a tourist for a chance to win cash prizes for the best tourist costume: \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place. Cash prizes will also be awarded for the top three male and female finishers, \$150 for



first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place, respectively. All proceeds will benefit the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, a nonprofit organization. The first 100 registrants will also receive a limited-edition Marianas Tourism Month T-shirt. (MVA)

M2 Fitness will lead a Zumba warmup at the Marianas Visitors Authority's Marianas Tourism Month 5K Fun Run on May 20, 2023, at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan. Registration is now open at www.raceroster. com, and participants are invited to dress as tourists for a chance to win cash prizes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-23

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 26, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NINETEEN (19) BRAND NEW UNITS OF 125# WHEELED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAYTHE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NINETEEN (19) BRAND NEW UNITS OF 125# WHEELED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (IFB-003-23)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 26, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Date: _____



PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB23-DPL/RT-42300044

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 12, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DPL'S Rota District Office Space Rental"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/s/ TERESITA A. SANTOS
DPL SECRETARY

/s/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR. ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

NATIONAL SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT MOBILIZATION

MAY 22 - JUNE 4, 2023

Seat belts have been proven to be one of the best ways to save your life in a crash. Yet, many still don't buckle up. Worse still, not wearing a seat belt is a habit that will pass on to impressionable youth who, in turn, will think it is safe to not buckle up. The Click It or Ticket campaign focuses on safety education, strong laws, and law enforcement support to save lives.







Crime/Crash Clock 2020 Values

Crime

murder every **24.4** minutes

violent crime every **24.7** seconds

property crime every **4.9** seconds

burglary every **30.5** seconds



Crash

traffic fatality every 14 minutes

traffic injury every 14 seconds

property damage crash every 9 seconds

law-enforcement reported crashes every minute

Data Source:

Crime - Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2020 Crime Clock Statistics, Crime in the United States (10/16/2021)

Crash - NHTSA 2020 Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS)

15482d-033122-v1







For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety

SAIPAN 664-9125/9084/85 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9350

10 FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 94

Published daily at 2/F JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

Др The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mass shootings keep happening and Congress keeps ducking gun control reforms supported by overwhelming majorities of Americans

nnocent people are dead, shot by a young man with a potent firearm, who died after an exchange of gunfire with police." That was, word-for-word, the opening sentence of our editorial less than a month ago about another mass shooting in another community by another young man with another assault rifle and our prediction on the next editorial.

What changes are the names of the murdered and the location of the massacre and the mourning. What is the same is the blood and the AR-15 or similar weapon.

Then it was a bank in Louisville, now it's a mall in Allen, Texas.

President Biden ordered flags to be flown at half-staff for five days in a proclamation yesterday, that begins: "As a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence perpetrated on..."

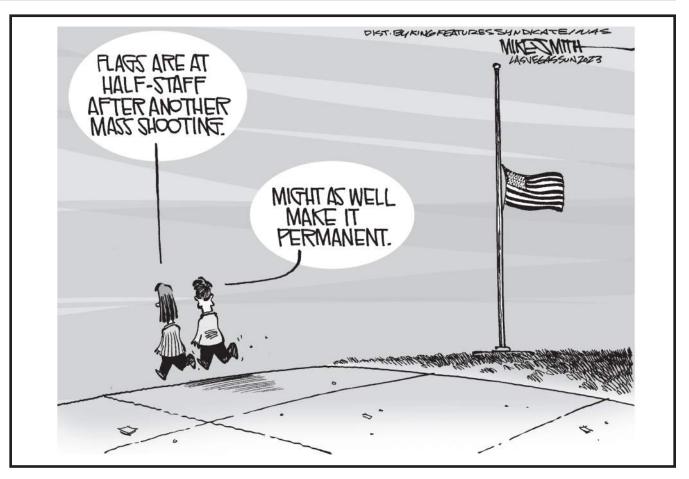
We are not the only ones who repeat; the same word-for-word proclamation was also issued on March 27 for Nashville and on Jan. 21 for Monterey Park, Calif. Last year, it was July 4 for Highland Park, Ill. and May 24 for Uvalde, Texas. In 2021, there were four times: May 26 for San Jose, April 15 for Indianapolis, March 22 for Boulder and March 16 for Atlanta.

What also repeats are the solutions that never happen. A Fox News poll published 10 days ago shows 61% of Americans want to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. The survey also found that universal background checks were favored by 87% and raising the age for gun purchases to 21 was at 81%.

Former Republican Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, in a Forbes op-ed last week, backs all of those measures, as well as laws requiring safe storage of firearms and ending legal immunity for gun manufacturers. Biden yesterday listed all the same reforms but for raising the age to 21 and said he would sign them immediately, but the Congress, still in the clutches of the NRA, does nothing.

The flags will stay lowered until Thursday evening. And then they're back up, until the next proclamation.

©2023 New York Daily News



Trump sexually abused and defamed E. Jean Carroll. There's no denying it now.

The Manhattan civil jury that found Donald Trump liable for sexually abusing and defaming former advice columnist E. Jean Carroll moved on the former president like—well, as he would say—"a bitch," finding against him after less than three hours of deliberation Tuesday.

Trump had not raped Carroll, the federal jury decided, but the assault was real, and he had injured her, acted with malice when he called her a liar, and damaged her reputation in the process. The jury has ordered Trump to pay Carroll about \$5 million.

We can take a couple of lessons from Carroll's victory and Trump's defeat.

First, obituaries for the #MeToo movement and the positive cultural changes it has wrought are premature. The jury may not have assigned to Trump the technical crime of rape, but it believed Carroll when she testified that he pushed her against a dressing room wall, pulled down her pantyhose and thrust his fingers into her.

Second, it turns out that narcissism can be its own punishment. In a deposition taken last year, a surly Trump, who wore face makeup that was an even harsher shade of orange than usual, virtually sealed his own legal fate.

In a videotape shown to the jury, he accused Carroll's attorney of being "a political operative" and "a disgrace" and, his favorite insult, "not my type."

Roberta Kaplan took it all in stride, asking whether he really believed—as he boasted to Billy Bush in 2005—that stars can grab women's genitals? Remember, when that tape became public during his first presidential campaign, he first claimed never to have said such a thing, then claimed he was indulging in "locker room talk."

Apparently, he was telling the truth all along.

"Historically," Trump replied, "that's true with stars. If you look over the last million years, that's largely true, unfortunately—or fortunately." (Fortunately?)

Then Kaplan asked whether Trump considered himself a star. "Yeah," he replied.

It was pretty obvious to anyone keeping track that what Trump did to Carroll was pretty much what he said he did to women whenever he felt like it. And his claim that Carroll was not his type was blatantly disproved when he misidentified a photo of her as his exwife Marla Maples.

There's a poetic justice to Trump's own vile words coming back to haunt him.

And something extremely reassuring about the fact that the New York law meant to provide redress to victims of long-ago sexual assaults accomplished exactly that.

There was no eyewitness—when is there ever an eyewitness in a sexual assault case?—but Carroll's attorney was able to call 10 witnesses, two of whom testified that she told them contemporaneously of the traumatic event, and two of whom testified that Trump had sexually assaulted them too, using a similar MO.

By ROBIN ABCARIAN Los Angeles Times



Thanks to New York's Adult Survivors Act, which temporarily lifted the statute of limitations on sexual assault, Carroll was able to accuse Trump in court of raping her in the dressing room of the upscale Manhattan specialty store Bergdorf Goodman on what she thinks was a Thursday evening in the spring of 1996.

Trump's attorney tried to exploit her lack of certainty about the date of the assault. How can a man provide an alibi if he doesn't even know what day he was alleged to have brutalized a woman? In a criminal trial, this missing piece of information probably would have been an insurmountable obstacle for a prosecutor.

But this was a civil trial.

Carroll did not have to prove her case beyond a reasonable doubt. All she had to do was persuade the nine-person jury—six male and three female jurors—that it was more likely than not that Trump had assaulted her. On the defamation charge, she had to meet a "clear and convincing" standard. The speedy verdict indicates she more than met the burden of proof.

I know from personal experience that traumatic events can lodge in your soul and change the course of your life even if you don't remember exactly when they happened. Shortly after I graduated from college, a jilted boyfriend of mine came to my apartment late one night and tried to strangle me. The Berkeley police who responded did not even file a report. Did it happen in 1978 or 1979? I have no idea.

I have long since given up hope that any of the heinous things Trump has done or said—including inciting the deadly Jan. 6 Capitol riot and haranguing Georgia elections officials to fraudulently overturn President Biden's 2020 victory in their state—will have any effect on his legions of supporters. Despite the shame of the outcome of this case for Trump, I doubt his status as the 2024 MAGA Republican presidential front-runner will change much if at all. His immediately response? "WITCH HUNT," as usual.

But I do want to dwell for a moment on E. Jean Carroll's courage, and also her dignity and composure on the witness stand as she was hectored by Trump's attorney about why she never screamed while the future president was attacking her.

Her response, in my view, provided the truest and most memorable line of the trial: "I'm telling you, he raped me whether I screamed or not."

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Con-

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Race to zero in Asia and the Pacific: Our hopes in the climate fight

he latest synthesis report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change makes for grim reading: Every fraction of a degree of warming comes with escalated threats, from deadly heatwaves to severe hurricanes and droughts, affecting all economies and communities. It is a reality that the people of Asia and the Pacific know only too well. "The worst April heatwaves in Asian history" last month was just a taste of the worsening climate impacts we will continue to face in the years to come.

Our latest report highlights that the sea level is creeping up in parts of the region at a slightly higher rate than the global mean, leaving low-lying atolls at existential threat. Annual socioeconomic loss due to climate change is mounting and likely to double in the worst-case climate scenario. Inequity is yet another threat as climate change sweeps across the region. Asia and the Pacific already accounts for more than half of global greenhouse gas emissions and the share is growing.

But there is another picture of hope in our region: 39 countries have committed to carbon neutrality and net zero between 2050 and 2060. The cost of renewable energy is falling almost everywhere, with installed capacity growing more than three-fold in the past decade. Electric vehicles are entering the market en masse as countries such as China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand have made electric mobility a priority.

This momentum needs to accelerate like a bullet train. Because nothing short of a breakthrough in hard-toabate sectors will give us a good chance of stopping catastrophic global warming.

Accelerating a just and inclusive energy transition

The recent energy crisis has kicked renewable energy into a new phase of even faster growth thanks to its energy security benefits. There is opportunity now to leverage this momentum and turn it into a revolutionary moment.

Cross-border electricity grids can be the game changer. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

Pacific has simulated different scenarios for grid connectivity and scaling up renewables. It shows that a green power corridor, cross-border power grid integration utilizing renewables, can help to remove the last hurdles of the transition. We are working with countries to chart a path to improved regional power grid connectivity through cooperation.

Achieving low-carbon mobility and logistics

The exceptional growth of electric vehicles has proved that electric mobility is a smart investment. And it is one that will help stave off carbon dioxide emissions from transport, which has stubbornly increased almost by 2% annually the past two decades.

Through the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport, we are working with the public and private sector to lock in the changeover to low-carbon mobility, clean energy technologies and logistics. This is complemented by peer learning and experience sharing under the Asia-Pacific Initiative on Electric Mobility to accelerate the penetration of electric vehicles and upgrading public transport fleets.

Building low-carbon industries through climatesmart trade and investment

The net zero transition is not complete without decarbonizing the industrial sector. The region accounts for nearly three quarters of global greenhouse gas emissions in manufacturing and construction.

Binding climate considerations in regional trade agreements can be a powerful tool. While climate-related provisions have entered regional trade agreements involving Asian and Pacific economies, they offer few concrete and binding commitments. To unlock further benefits, they will need to be broader in scope, deeper in stringency and more precise in obligations.

As foreign investment goes green, it should also go where it is needed the most. It has not been the case for any of the least developed countries and small island developing States in the region.

By ARMIDA SALSIAH **ALISJAHBANA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is undersecretary-General of the United Nations and executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Financing the transition

The transition can be only possible by investing in lowand zero-emission technologies and industries. Current domestic and international financial flows fall well short of the needed amount. The issuance of green, social and sustainability bonds is rapidly growing, reaching \$210 billion in 2021 but were dominated by developed and a few developing countries. Both public and private financial institutions need to be incentivized to invest in new green technologies and make the uptake of such technologies less risky.

Linking actions and elevating ambitions

The code red to go green is ever so clear. Every government needs to raise their stake in this crisis. Every business needs to transform. Every individual needs to act. A journey to net zero should accelerate with a fresh look at

At ESCAP, we are working to bring together the pieces and build the missing links at the regional level to support the net-zero transition work at the national level. The upcoming Commission session will bring countries together for the first time in an intergovernmental setting - to identify common accelerators for climate action and to chart a more ambitious pathway. This is the start of an arduous journey that requires cooperation, understanding and determination. And I believe we have what it takes to get there together.

The power of a mother's love: Healing and nurturing

s I sat down to scribble a message this Mother's Day, memories of my mother came flooding back. The loss of my mother six years ago left a gaping hole in my heart that will never fully heal. But even in her demise, her love continues to be a powerful force in my life. Through her passion she instilled in me a strength that has helped me face the many challenges life has thrown at me. This time I found the courage to express the power of a mother's love: how it heals and nurtures me as a daughter. I may not have biological kids, but I am grateful to have personally experienced a mother's unique connection with her child. It is a bond that transcends time and space and I will always

While reflecting on my experiences with my mother, I am amazed at how she inculcated in me how powerful a mother's love can be. Though she may no longer be with us, our bond continues to shape my existence, and I am forever grateful for her love and support.

But what about a mother's love makes it so powerful? And how does it heal and nurture? A mother's love is like no other force on Earth; it is extraordinary and mighty, akin to God's unconditional love. An eternal, all-encompassing embrace holds a child in warmth and tenderness, shaping their existence. Her passion is truly remarkable, beginning long before a child is born. From the moment a woman conceives, her love for her child grows and evolves in ways that are beyond compare. The touch of a mother's hand, the sound of her voice, the comfort of her

embrace—these are the things that create an unbreakable bond between mother and child. It is a bond that can heal wounds, soothe aches, and nurture the soul.

Growing up, my mother was always a constant presence in my life. Her love was like a warm embrace, wrapping me up in a world of comfort and security. From how she cared for me and made me soup when I was sick, to how she listened intently as I shared my hopes and fears, my mother's nurturing and supportive presence has been a guiding light throughout my life.

One particular instance that stands out as a testament to the power of my mother's love is when I struggled with a chronic illness that left me exhausted and in pain; my mother was my rock. She was there with me every step of the way, providing the physical healing I needed through her care and attention and offering the emotional support that helped me stay strong and resilient.

I remember one night in particular when I was feeling especially low. I was lying in bed, tears streaming down my face, feeling like the world's weight was crushing me. My mother entered my room and sat beside me on the bed. For the next hour, she listened as I poured out my heart to her, sharing my fears and worries. She didn't judge or criticize me but offered comfort and support that helped me see that I wasn't alone in my struggles. I felt relieved and slept soundly that night, and it gave me hope that everything would turn out right in the end.

Over time, my mother's unwavering love and support helped me heal physically and emotionally. Her compas-

By ROSEMARIE D. EMBILE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rosemarie D. Embile is a teacher at the Northern Marianas International School.



sion and care aided my physical healing, and her emotional support helped me to stay positive. Even after I moved away from home to work in a city, I still made it a point to come home to experience my mother's love and regain strength from the challenges of my job.

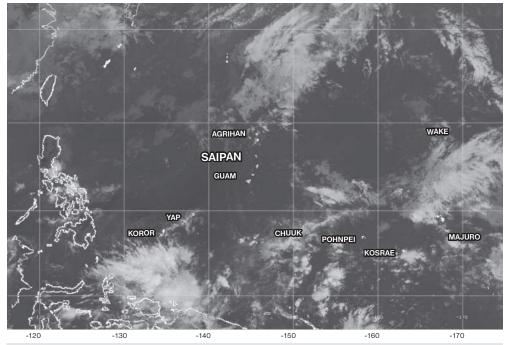
With her invaluable guidance, I overcame seemingly insurmountable challenges and achieved my goals. Looking back on my life, I realize how much my mother's love has shaped me into who I am today. Her nurturing, supportive presence has given me the strength and resilience to weather life's storms as I continue my life journey. The love of a mother is truly a gift that lasts a lifetime. Although I miss her dearly, I take comfort in the fact that her love lives on through me. As we celebrate Mother's Day and honor the mothers in our lives, let us remember the profound impact their love has on our well-being and the world around us.

Happy Mother's Day to all the fantastic mothers out there!

12 FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN TODAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY Lisolated showers. Mostly sunny Isolated showers. Mostly sunny Mostly sunny



PICTURE TIME: 8:00 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed isolated showers over the Marianas this morning. East to southeast winds prevail over the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	MICRONESIA					
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°				
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°				
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°				
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 81°				
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 77°				
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°				
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°				

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:12 AM	11:45 AM	-
Saturday	1:02 AM	12:46 PM	-
Sunday	1:47 AM	1:44 PM	-
Monday	2:29 AM	2:39 PM	-
Tuesday	3:08 AM	3:33 PM	-

AROUND TH	IE GLOBE	▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	59° / 45
Beijing	Thunderstorms	83° / 59
Hong Kong	Showers	78° / 73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72
London	Light Rain	55° / 49
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	71° / 55
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	92° / 80
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 48
Miami	Partly Cloudy	83° / 77
New York	Mostly Sunny	81° / 62
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	75° / 59
Paris	Rain	61° / 52
Busan	Cloudy	68° / 57
Rome	Light Rain	69° / 53
Salem	Thundershowers	83° / 65
San Francisco	Cloudy	62° / 51
Seoul	Cloudy	76° / 52
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	71° / 61
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	82° / 60°

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TOI	DAY FEET
2:13 AM	High Tide	1.98
7:42 AM	Low Tide	1.47
11:37 AM	High Tide	1.75
7:25 PM	Low Tide	-0.05

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023

	LIGH	ı Jun	EDULE A	19 OF 1	APNIL	. 30, 2	023
	DEP	ARTURES	6		AR	RIVALS	
SAIPAN-	GUAM (G	ium)		GUAM (G	UM)-SAI	PAN	
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN-	NARITA	(NRT)		NARITA ((NRT)-SA	IPAN	
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-M	ANILA (I	MNL)		MANILA	(MNL)-GI	UAM	
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-	MANILA	(MNL)		MANILA	(MNL)-S	AIPAN	
0Z626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7
			ICN				via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau,
			Guam				Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
			Guam, Palau				
SAIPAN-	INCHEOR	l (ICN)		INCHEON	I (ICN)-SA	AIPAN	
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
0Z626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	0Z625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; TC, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

	'	LIOITIC	CHLDOLL	70 OI 0	JOINE 1,	2022	
SAIPAN	TO ROTA			ROTA T	O SAIPAN		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/				Sat/Sun
			Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA T	O GUAM			GUAM 1	O ROTA		
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN	TO TINIA	N		TINIAN	TO SAIPA	N	
FLIGHT#	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Recause Oms deserve the Best

A Saipan Tribune Special Advertising Supplement 05 | 12 | 23







By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

s a mother to three grown-up children, I recall how, between the ages of 3 to 10, they would each give me handcrafted cards they made with their little hands each time another Mother's Day comes around. I used to hang them on my refrigerator, together with the other artworks they used to bring home from school.

As they grew older, the gifts became savvier, with the most expensive being a card that contained cold, hard cash that they wanted me to use to file for my U.S. citizenship. If I choked up all those years of receiving those handmade gifts, I cried a bucketload over that cash gift, knowing they blew their paychecks to secure my future. In hindsight, I felt my dream of contributing something worthwhile had finally come true. That was when this quote came alive for me: "Being a mother is not about what you gave up having a child but what you gained from having one." In my case, three. That is my reward for being a mother.

Whatever we call them—Mama, Nana, Inay, Mommy (being the terms that are most familiar to us), More in Dutch, Mutti in German, Ama in Basque or Mamicka in Slovak—thank you for being the selfless, loving, kind, compassionate, the fount of unconditional love.

In honor of mothers all over the world, we prepared these stories about mothers and motherhood, beginning with trivia about this occasion as well as a gift guide to help you find the ideal gift for the queens of our homes. Also, learn about the traditions surrounding Mother's Day celebrations in different countries.

Get to know Maricar Manicdao Guintu and how through her kindness, she was able to give the lasting gift of education to her nephew and niece. Find out about the role mother's play in our society from Pastor Evelyn Armia and get some words of wisdom from former Ms. CNMI Sheryn Cabrera, who shares her experience when she was a new mother.

...and now we raise a glass to honor the woman and women, young and old. Cheers!

Happy Mother's Day!

Nuggets of wisdom for new mothers

rancisco Sablan Middle School principal Cherlyn Brel Cabrera Osung knows a lot about the emotional see-

saw of being a new mom. As a mother to energetic and fun-loving 2-year-old Ezra (or Ezzy Bobo, as he is

known in Nigerian), Osung is just thankful for the strong support she and her husband get from family and friends that allows her respond to the challenges mothernew hood brings.

Another challenge is that Osung is not your typical young mother. Compared to her peers, Osung was already in her early 40's when she started her family.

While she still has a lot to learn about motherhood, Osung says, "I am blessed

to be both Chamorro, from that starting a family at a later my father, and Palauan, from my mother. I'm blessed to be from both cultures and families where support for new babies is a willing sacrifice many in my family are willing to do."

Osung and her husband, who is also a lifelong educator, were married in Palau just three years ago. Osung



The Osungs with 2-year-old Ezra. "My husband and I have wanted children for so long that every step of early infancy really was a joy," she said.

age has its benefits. "Since I am a new older mom, it's wonderful to have the wisdom of having lived a while. I already had the resources and life experiences I needed in raising our son. I just wish I had the energy I had when I was 20," she said.

While support from relatives and family may be read-

> ily available for young mothers in the community, many still struggle with the basics of finding a steady income or at times, food, shelter and medical care. But help is available.

"For moms currently in school, we do have great community resource of childcare through the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. We also have many partnering agencies that can help new moms. The biggest hurdle would be to know what agencies to contact for what help," Osung said.

In the U.S., a Pew Research Center poll

shows that the average age of women at their first birth has increased steadily over the last decade. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that the average woman gave birth for the first time at 27 years old, up from the 2011 data of 25 years old when she first gave birth to her first child.

For new moms, Osung shares these tips that helped her during her son Ezra's early days.

1. Get help so you can sleep and shower in peace. "I remember hearing this advice before my son was born—sleep when the baby sleeps. Sleep deprivation can take a toll on the body and mind," said Osung. Naps are a rejuvenating way to relax, especially for new mothers, so don't be afraid to ask a family member or a friend to watch your child while you take some time to rest and sleep.

2. Enjoy connecting with your baby. They are extremely smart and will remember and benefit from the quality time you spend with them.

4. See your doctor if you have postpartum depression or start thinking unusual thoughts.

5. Co-parenting helps. "We

Two-year-old Ezra is the delight of the Osung family. His mom Cherlyn describes him as a big lover of monster trucks and dinosaurs CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

are humans with many limitations. It's not possible to be all things to all people—career woman, amazing wife, and awesome mom all at the same time. When babies are little, they demand so much of our time and energy as moms because they are helpless and fully dependent on us for their survival. My husband and I have wanted children for so long that it really was a joy, every step of early infancy. Eventually, we just accepted that our schedule had to revolve around our son in his early years."

6. Reach out to other moms. Moms are always willing to give advice and help new moms with their struggles. Schedule regular babysitting so new moms can take care of themselves and relax.

It is overwhelming to be a mom as it's an awesome responsibility to raise a little human. But there is help out there if moms are willing to search and ask around.

6. Have faith. One amazing re-

source is God. He answers prayers and we can talk to him anytime 24/7.

The greatest takeaway about motherhood? Osung shares several of them. "I learned how amazing it is to love another human so much. It's made me love and have a softer spot in my heart for little babies and little kids even more. I've learned how inspiring kids can be to help us want great things for them. I've come to appreciate my own parents and other parents even more for the years of sacrifice and love. Most importantly, it helped me to understand how Divine Providence loves and accepts us despite our imperfections."

Untangling the roles of mothers and motherhood today

By TERI M. FLORES CORRESPONDENT

velyn Armia, a mother of three and the regional director for Micronesia of Jesus is Lord Church in Guam, says motherhood is still considered a noble state these days, but it also has its share of misconceptions, including the thinking that motherhood is simple. "Motherhood it is not easy. It is not simple. Every child is unique, there is no raising a good child template that fits all."

In order to meet the demands of motherhood, Arnia recommends that mothers be open to seeking help and familial support when the need arises. "While there is inexpressible joy in being a mother, it can be also be incredibly challenging, both physically and emotionally. Mothers need to be continuous learners and take the essential support from immediate family, friends, church, and the community."

Another misconception, Arnia says, is the extent of a mother's influence on the lives of their children. While this may be true, in the end the presence of both parents still hold much more influence in their children's lives, Arnia says.

"Both parents have great influence in the lives of the children. Children respond positively to the unconditional love of their mother, but based on many observations, children unconsciously tend to imitate their father more. Fathers need to be more involved in raising the kids and need to set good example for their children to emulate."

Each of Arnia's three children have carved a career in the U.S. armed forces. Her eldest son, Kedesh, 32, is based in Hawaii with his wife, Marjorie, and serves in the U.S. Army, while her daughter, Keziah, 24, is currently based in Texas with her husband, Kellen, who is retired from the U.S. Navy. Her third son, Kenneth, 22, lives in Georgia and serves in the U.S. Air Force.

Arnia's faith played an important part in helping her deal with the demands of motherhood. "My faith helped me to act with love and to trust God during times of uncertainty. It has allowed me to have a loving relationship with my late husband and with my children."

Consistently following a balanced schedule also helps, Arnia said. "It was a great tool in fulfilling my role as wife, a mother, a career woman, and a church leader. Managing my time with a balanced schedule was not restrictive, but it enabled me to do more, especially for my family."

Arnia also advises mothers to take time for self-care. "I'm so grateful that my late husband was so considerate and allowed me to have time for simple physical exercises like walking. He also accompanied me to the gym. Having massages at least once a month, and time to have friendly dates with my female friends also contributed to my wellbeing."

Mothers should value their wellbeing, Arnia said. "We cannot give what we do not have. In the same manner, if a mother's holistic health is not optimal, she will not be able to give her best to her children."

Still, motherhood has not strayed that far from its previous state as a valued member of society. "Mothers are recognized for their love, sacrifice and selflessness in raising well-rounded children. They have a great impact in the lives of their children. Not only are they the first instruments of God's love, but mothers are also the first mentors, Whatever the children learn from home, they will bring it to their community. If they learn love and respect at home, they will reflect love and respect," Arnia said.

This is reflected in a recent poll conducted by the Pew Research Center, which found that 83% of U.S. mom say that being a parent is one of the most important aspects of their personal identity, with the same percentage also finding that parenting is described as both an enjoyable and rewarding experience.



call (670) 234-3600 or (670) 285-0360.



DAY



Interesting **facts** about *Mother's Day*

By TERI M. FLORES

hat's the big deal about M o t h e r 's Day and why do we all go about trying to buy gifts and organizing get-togethers around this internationally recognized occasion? Why the fuss indeed?

To find answers to these questions, I scoured the internet for some answers and dug up some gems that were not only interesting but were

worth sharing, beginning with the origins of the word "mother"

The Oxford dictionary offers a dry and succinct definition of the word "mother." It merely states that a mother is "a female parent of a child or animal; a person who is acting as a mother to a child."

What then is so special about a mother if this definition is to be followed?

To put that in context, I ran into American humorist Erma Bombeck, who offers this defi-

nition: "Mothers are not the nameless, faceless stereotypes who appear once a year on a greeting card with their virtues set to prose, but women who have been dealt a hand for life and play each card one at a time the best way they know how. No mother is all good or all bad, all laughing or all serious, all loving or all angry. Ambivalence rushes through their veins

Abraham Lincoln also famously said, "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel sainted mom: "I asked Mor I was a gifted child. She shope to be, I owe to my angel they certainly wouldn't

mother," referring to his mom, Nancy, who died when he was just 9 years old.

Noted American politician and religious leader James E. Faust also says, "The influence of a mother in the lives of her children is beyond calculation."

One of my favorites, however, comes from Calvin, of the famed Calvin and Hobbes cartoon, who offers the following observation about his sainted mom: "I asked Mom if I was a gifted child. She said they certainly wouldn't

have paid for me."

Another interesting definition that explains why mothers are celebrated says: "A mother is a selfless, loving human who must sacrifice many of their wants and needs for the wants and needs of their children. A mother works hard to make sure their child is equipped with the knowledge."

So when and where did Mother's Day originate? According to the History Channel's website, Mother's Day

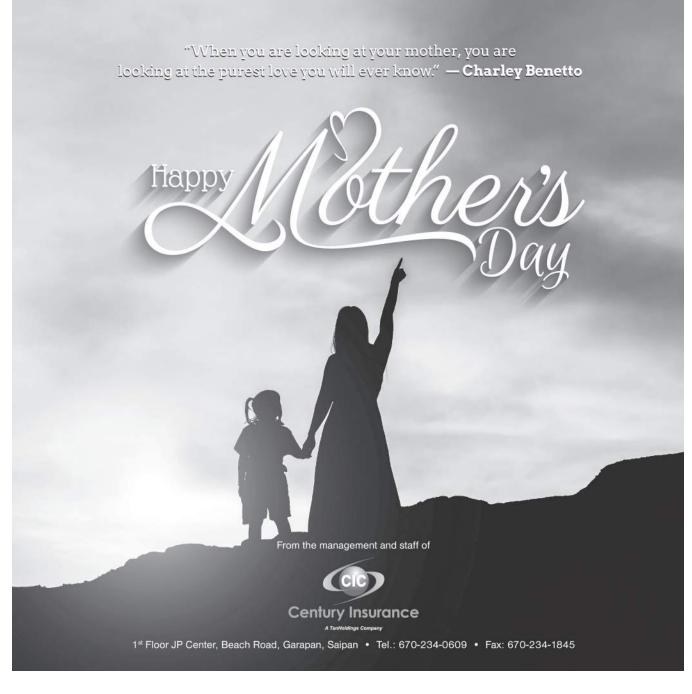
See FACTS on Page 20











Mother's Day traditions around the world

rom the Greeks and the Romans, to our modern times, mothers are celebrated all over the world in different ways and times during the year.

It is part of a religious observance in the United Kingdom. In Taiwan, it is celebrated on the same day as Buddha's birthday. In the U.S. and other European countries like Denmark, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, and Turkey, as well as in major parts of Larin America, Mother's Day is held every second Sunday of May. In Indonesia, Mother's Day is celebrated on Dec. 22.

In China, sons and daughters are known to honor their mothers by gifting them with a Hemerocallis flower. In the United States, the white car-

rom the Greeks nation was originally used as and the Romans, a badge at the first Mother's to our modern Day gathering in the eartimes, mothers are ly 1900's.

In rural India, their Mother's Day celebration is a feast spread over a nine-day period in honor of the mother goddess, Durga.

In Japan, Mother's Day took a different meaning after World War II when it was held to console grieving mothers who lost their children during the war. On this day, Japanese children give their mothers pink carnations, which symbolizes purity, love, and endurance.

Mexican children, on the other hand, treat their mothers to a long lunch during La Dia Del Madre, which is how Mother's Day is referred to in their language. (*Teri M. Flores*)

FACTS

From page 17

celebration dates as far as the Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of their mother goddesses, Rhea and Cybele.

It was believed that the medieval British held a religious festivity known as Mothering Sunday, where the faithful went back to their "mother church" for a special service. Later on, the British broadened this festival to include human mothers as well.

Mother's Day celebrations are held at different times in different parts of the world and the celebration also depends on the tradition of the country.

The second Sunday of May is widely celebrated as Mother's Day in the United States and in several other countries that include Australia, Nigeria, Switzerland, and Greece. The United Kingdom still holds on to the tradition of Mothering Sunday and has Mother's Day celebrations on the fourth week of Lent. In Thailand, mothers are celebrated in August to coincide with the birthday of Queen Sirikit, while Ethiopia celebrates Antrosht, where large feasts and singing are held to celebrate motherhood.

In the 1900's, the efforts of West Virginia native Anna Jarvis to get Mother's Day officially recognized as a holiday in the United States became tinged with controversy. Originally, Jarvis conceived Mother's Day in honor of her own mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, who was an activist and an advocate for caring for children and promoting peace. In honor of mothers, the young Anna promoted the use of white carnation as a badge and encouraged a visit to one's mother and attending church services. Mother's Day became a public event in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation in 1914 declaring the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day.

The event grew in popularity and with that came the

so-called commercialization of the event, where florists, card makers, and candy makers made a profit out of selling their goods as gifts. Unhappy that the holiday's meaning veered away from her original intent of celebrating the personal, individual connection between a mother and her children, Jarvis used her own money to file lawsuits against profiteers of the event and lobbied to have the holiday removed from the calendar of national holidays.

One internet site says Jarvis put Mother's Day on the calendar as a day dedicated to expressing love and gratitude to mothers, acknowledging the sacrifices women make for their children. Which is why she was determined to keep "Mother's" a singular possessive, as marked by the apostrophe before "s."

Today, Mother's Day has grown into a billion-dollar industry not just for businesses but also for fundraising organizations. This year, Mary Meisenzahl from digitalcommerce360.com reports that the National Retail Federation expects Americans to spend \$35.7 billion (about \$110 per person in the U.S.) in Mother's Day merchandise alone. This \$4 billion is more than the previous record of \$31.7 billion in 2022.

Today, these simple gestures have blossomed into larger efforts that are based on sales and profits. Before the COVID-19 virus took hold of the country, the Statistical Research and Analysis firm predicted that 2020 Mother's Day spending could reach \$26.7 billion.

Shopping, both online and retail stores, are tied as the preferred destinations to get Mother's Day gifts, with flowers, greeting cards, and outings as the most popular gifts for this event. Of course, a majority of spending will be in jewelry.

Whatever the case may be, celebrating our mothers should be the end goal, while giving her thanks and recognizing her central role in our families.

What to do and where to go

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

f you're still on the fence whether to take Mom for some retail therapy or have her indulge in the gustatory delights of some of the island's cooks and chefs, here's a quick guide to help you plan and execute a Mother's Day surprise for the woman who is the queen of our hearts and homes.

SHOPPING

Joeten Shopping Center

Pick a gift for Mom from Joeten's wide selection of merchandise and groceries. From May 11 to 14, take advantage of 25% off on ladies apparel, shoes, jewelry, make-up, and home appliances. For the family barbecue, meat products and select wines and spirit are also on sale, while select baking products and vegetables are also available for a special low price. Visit any of Joeten's four branches in Susupe, Garapan, Dandan, and Kagman.

Joeten Motors

This Mother's Day, get Mom a new 2023 Nissan Rogue for a down payment of just \$500 and only \$242 monthly payments. The purchase comes with a \$500 shopping spree for Mom, free tint and Ziebart undercoating and a one-year free service. Visit www. joetenmotors.com or call 670-234-5562 for more information.

MG Mall

Check out the big Mother's Day sale at MG Mall, which features up to 70% off on select merchandise and 50% off on all other items. Store hours are 10am to 8pm. MG Mall is located between Gold Ribbon and Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao.

Midea Appliances

Update Mom's appliances with sales that range from 10% to 25% for window and split type air-conditioning units. Refrigerators and freezers are from 10% to 30% off. There is also a 10% discount on washer, solar lights, and rice cookers and much more. The store is located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

IT&E

Sign up for IT&E's phone plans this Mother's Day and get up to \$200 in gift certificates for a spa treatment at Namaste Beautiful on Saipan. Rota and Tinian subscribers are eligible for \$200 vouchers from Ace Hardware. For those who already have a phone and are just looking for a phone plan, IT&E offers a value-packed data plan starting at \$35 a month. This comes with unlimited access to select social media sites. Also, purchase a new phone with a phone plan through IT&E's Device Payment Plan and get an unlimited voice and data plan starting at \$55—a plan originally worth \$80. Some conditions apply. Visit IT&E for more information.

DINING

McDonalds

A gift card from McDonald's is a sure-fire way to satisfy Mom's craving for their sandwiches, fries, and milkshakes. Available at any of the McDonald's location on Chalan Pale Arnold Road and its Garapan Express branch.

KFC and Taco Bell

From May 12 to 19, KFC offers a "Special MOMent Deal," which is a choice between two meal sets, each for only \$29.99. Set A includes six pieces of chicken, five-piece

chicken strips, two large sides, three cookies and two drinks (no refill). Set B includes 10 pieces chicken, two large sides, three cookies and two drinks (no refill).

Taco Bell offers a \$14 Mother's Day packet of one Nachos Bell grande, one quesadilla, and a three-piece taco.

Shirley's Coffee Shop

A \$30 gift voucher and a 30th anniversary commemorative shirt awaits five winners of Shirley's Mother's Day photo contest. It's easy to join! Take a photo of your Mom at any of Shirley's Chalan Kanoa or Century Hotel branches and let the world know why you love her by posting the photo on Shirley's Facebook page. Winners will be announced on May 31. Visit Shirley's Coffee Shop on Facebook for more information.

Crown Plaza Resort Saipan

Treat Mom to the best of the best buffets at one of the most scenic restaurants on Saipan. On Sunday, May 14, The Terrace will host a Mother's Day feast from 11am to 2pm. Indulge in a delectable spread of seafood on ice, various smoked meats, including a whole roasted lechon and Angus prime rib, a pasta station, a hot and cold dessert selection. The buffet costs only \$65 for adults and \$25 for children between 4 to 11 years old. A 15% local resident discount applies.

For reservations, visit saipan.crowneplaza. com or call 670-234-6414.

Coral Ocean Point

It's called the Lovely Mother's Day brunch and dinner buffet, which awaits your family at the resort's Restaurant Ole on Sunday, May 14. Buffet menu includes special Angus top blade steak served tableside (one per adult). Lechon, fresh sushi, sashimi and fresh oysters are inclusive of champagne, wines, and cocktails from the Beach Club Live Bar. For reservations, call 680-237-5026.

Great Harvest Bread Co.

Spoil Mom with these specials from Triple J Wholesale. Begin with special pastry orders from the Great Harvest Bread Co., that are sure to satisfy Mom and her brood's sweet tooth. From May 10-20, order a round, chocolate, or a taro-flavored cake for only \$16.95. You may also add a short, personalized message with this order. Get a Raspberry, Mango or Blueberry Cheesecake with a heart-shaped cookie, also for \$16.95 only. A minimum 24-hours is required for each order of these delectable pastries.

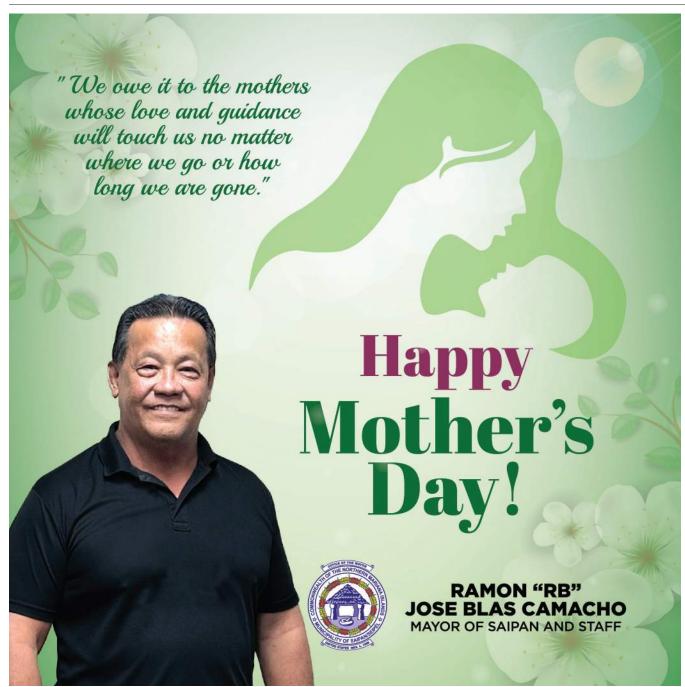
Surf Club Restaurant

From May 13 to 15, Moms get to try either a plate of penne alfredo with chicken or a raspberry citrus salad with shrimp for only \$17.95 to add on to their meals at the Surf Club Restaurant. For reservations, call the Surf Club at (670) 235-1122

Saipan 360

Take Mom to a meal with a view of Saipan at night. Between May 13 and 14, Saipan 360 has a special Mother's Day menu for lunch and dinner. Take your pick between a \$59 menu that includes marinated chicken breast in chili soy glaze and oven baked mahi-mahi piccata with pimiento fried rice and vegetables. Or you can have the \$69 set, which includes grilled certified Angus beef ribeye steak and sautéed garlic butter shrimp with twice-baked potato and vegetables. All meals start with chicken noodle soup and tossed salad and end with a dessert of fudge brownie butter scotch trifle. Call (670) 234-3600 or (670) 288-4360 for reservations.





A tale of two mothers

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

his is a tale of two mothers—one who temporarily gave up her children in order to secure their futures and another mother who took in both her nephew and her niece so they can have a fighting chance to grow up enjoying the privileges they otherwise would not have if they had remained with their own mother.

This story of two sisters is also a tale of grit, of the limitless capacity of a mother to put on hold her own dreams in order to make sure that her child reaches his or her dreams first, of the stoic love that sees nothing of the personal sacrifices they have to make in order to make sure that their children are headed to a better life.

It's a school night at the Guintus' Gualo Rai home and gathered around the table are the couple Frederic and Maricar and their four children—Oneil, Mac, MJ, and Inku—all busy poring over their schoolwork.

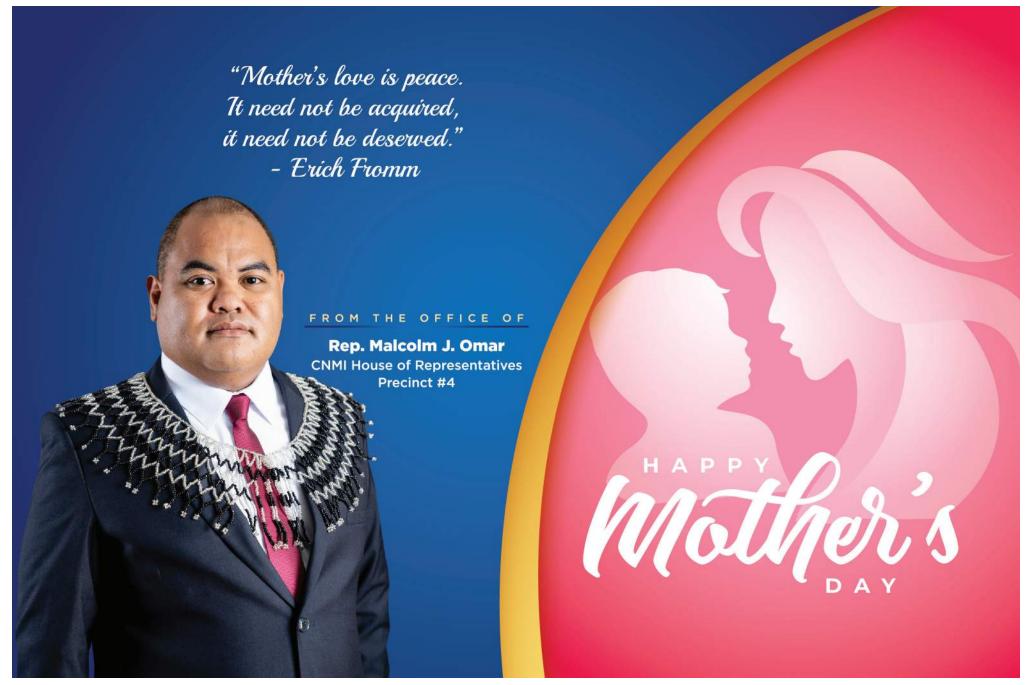
To casual onlookers, this nightly scene at the Guintu

household embodies a traditional family setting. But what makes the Guintu family different is that it is a blended one made up of two parents, two of their biological children, and Maricar's nephew and niece—the children of her sister, whom the Guintus took custody of 11 years ago. Oneil, 23, and his sister, MJ (Milarose Jeanne), 16, have grown up with the Guintus own children: Mac, (Frederic Dean Michael), 19, and Inku (Michael Jan Frederic), 11.

Maricar considers the addition of her nephew and her niece to their family as the gift that continues to give.

"My sister had to go back to the Philippines because her immigration status at that time did not allow her to remain here. I wanted to help take care of her children. Instead of sending money, both my husband and I considered it best for us to take them so they can continue their studies here on Saipan. I wanted them to enjoy the privileges of being U.S. citizens, especially the educational opportunities that were open to them.

"My husband and I believe in the saying 'Teach a man to fish and he will be fed the Continued on Next Page





The Guintu family enjoy the company of a friend. From left, Oneil, Mac, Maricar, a family guest, Frederic, Inku and MJ.

From Page 22

rest of his life.' Education is the best gift we can give my nephew and niece because this will set them up for life," added Maricar.

As a mother herself, Maricar knew how difficult it must have been for her sister to give up custody of her two children so they can take advantage of the opportunities available to them. Oneil was 12 while MJ was just 4 years old when they went back to Saipan to join the Guintus.

All Maricar has for her sister is respect and admiration for

another mother who longed to see her children grow up, but had to make sacrifices for the good of her family.

Maricar herself understands the toll separation has on a family because she and Frederic only saw each other intermittently during the first seven years of their marriage due to their jobs. Frederic was then working as a mechanical engineer in Saudi Arabia before he joined Maricar on Saipan to raise their family together. Frederic is now a six-year veteran at Saipan International School where he teaches math.

Helping her sister and her

children came naturally for Maricar who grew up as the youngest in a family of nine children. Her father worked as an electrician for a provincial bus line in the Philippines while her mother took to washing other people's laundry to make ends meet.

Maricar did not let her family's meager finances deter her from pursuing her dreams—to finish school and land a job so she could give her parents some of life's conveniences. She finished college on an academic scholarship and right before she came to Saipan, Maricar

Continued on Next Page







The Guintu family-from left, Mac, Maricar, Frederic, MK, and Inku-enjoy one of their favorite family activity-dining out. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



spent four years as a public schoolteacher in the Philippines. For the past 20 years, Maricar has been a part of Tan Holdings Corp.'s legal department where she is a legal assistant.

Like any other family, the Guintus have their unique challenges to overcome, one of them being the bouts of loneliness that come when one is away for a prolonged period from one's family.

"We don't fail to remind Oneil and MJ that their separation from their mom is just for the time being. What is important is that they focus on their studies and that they be good at what they do. Eventually, their hard work in school will pave the way for all of them to one day become one family again. At the same time. I always tell all four of them to always keep on trying. Never give up and always do their best in anything that they do."

Maricar considers Frederic her No. 1 ally. "I have been blessed with a very supportive husband. He fully agreed with my desire to help my sister and her children, and he even backed my plan for MJ and Oneil to become a part of our own family."

The family does most of their activities together, especially schoolwork. "We're very handon. Both of us make sure we do not take any outside commitments during study times. We also require the same of the children. They are also constantly reminded about their schoolwork," said Maricar.

The bond between cousins is very strong. All three younger ones look up to Oneil, not just as an older brother but also as their inspiration. In fact, Mac, who is attending college on a full academic scholarship, has decided to emulate Oneil, a working student, by becoming one himself.

It also helps the family that Maricar is a green thumb.



The fruit of Maricar and Frederic Guintu's kindness and generosity-the high scjool graduation of Onei, center. From left, Mac, Imku, Maricar, and Frederic. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



The Guintu's academic achievers, from left, Oneil, MJ, Mac, and Inku's last photo together before Oneil went off to college in Oregon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

During her spare time, Maricar tends to a vegetable garden, some of the produce of which she uses for their daily meals while she also earns additional income by selling a part of her harvest. It is the same with Frederic, who takes to fishing as a hobby. Whatever leftover catch he has is also sold.

"She is a very selfless mom. She does everything for her family," said Mirasol Dayao, a longtime friend of Maricar. "I admire her for her very giving spirit and how she turned her love for gardening not just as a source of food for her family, but also as a source of additional income. She budgets well, saves her income and uses her money wisely."

Maricar herself has nuggets of wisdom that she said has served her well in life: "Spend within your means. Use your hobbies, talent, and abilities to earn extra income. In short be diligent and extra creative."

Today, the Guintus are

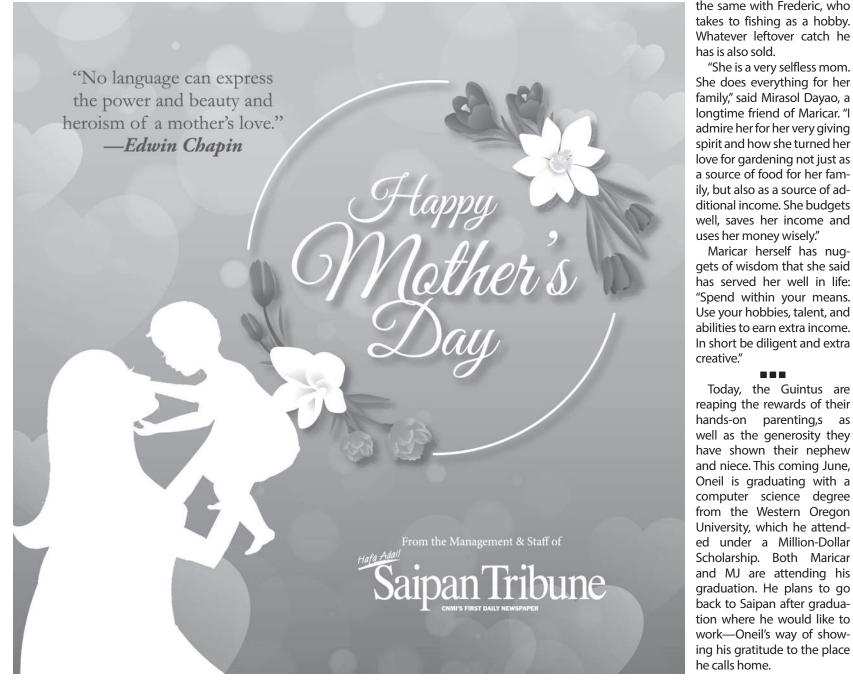
reaping the rewards of their hands-on parenting,s as well as the generosity they have shown their nephew and niece. This coming June, Oneil is graduating with a computer science degree from the Western Oregon University, which he attended under a Million-Dollar Scholarship. Both Maricar and MJ are attending his graduation. He plans to go back to Saipan after graduation where he would like to work-Oneil's way of show-

Mac is a junior at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, which he attends as a full academic scholar. He is a math and computer science major with a minor in physics. Even as a scholar, Mac still works as a student assistant so he can have spare money for his other needs. "He doesn't want to ask us for money. But he knows we are here in case he needs financial help," Maricar says.

The younger ones, both honor students as well, are attending Saipan International School. MJ, a consistent honor student who was just recently inducted to the National Honor Society, is in 10th grade, while Inku is a 6thgrade student who intends to pursue law in college.

Maricar said she has no regrets about helping her sister and her family. In their journey as a family, the whole experience has taught her about compassion, unconditional love, and how the power of kindness can transform lives.

"I hope that when it's their turn to help, my children will also be able to look at our life as a family and use the lessons we learned as their inspiration to help. As the saying goes 'Charity begins at home.' The biggest challenge is to ensure that all of them never lose sight of their humble beginnings and that they respect all those that they will meet in their journey," she said.



FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 **25** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Lovely Mother's Day

brunch and dinner buffet at Coral Ocean

your life to a Lovely Mother's Day brunch and dinner this

Biden goes after Republicans on debt limit in campaign-style

VALHALLA, N.Y. (AP)— President Joe Biden on Wednesday blasted Republican-demanded spending cuts as "devastating," making his case in a campaign-style speech to voters as lawmakers met in Washington on raising the government's borrowing limit to avoid a potentially catastrophic U.S. default.

The president is showing an increased willingness to discuss possible budget restraints, yet he insisted anew that any talks on that should occur without the risk of the federal government being unable to pay its bills. As he spoke, negotiators from the White House and Congress met for two hours privately at the Capitol to discuss a path forward.

"America is the strongest economy in the world, but we should be cutting spending and lowering the deficit without a needless crisis," Biden said Wednesday.

His words were a challenge to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who met Tuesday with Biden at the White House, declaring afterward that sharp spending cuts were required for House Republicans to increase the debt limit and stave off the risk of default.

Biden laid into that GOP proposal on Wednesday in Valhalla, New York, saying spending cuts recently passed by the Republican House could hurt schools and the country's "sacred" obligations to military veterans.

The faceoff comes as the government is rapidly bumping up against its legal borrowing authority, meaning that it may not be able to pay its bills as early as the start of next month unless lawmakers agree to lift the limit. Negotiations between the White House and Congress are expected to resume Thursday.

Wednesday's events marked a preview of what the coming 18 months will look like for Biden as he performs his presidential duties while

also trying to campaign in the 2024 election. He went to a region represented by firstterm Republican Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district Biden won in 2020. Yet the president was gracious to the congressman, saying that Lawler is "the kind of Republican I was used to dealing with."

Biden used the trip to trumpet recent economic progress — pointing to the 12.7 million jobs created during his term and a fresh focus on domestic manufacturing — while warning that an unprecedented debt default would threaten millions of jobs and raise the prospect of a recession. Yet GOP lawmakers blame his coronavirus relief spending for the high inflation that has many voters already worrying about the U.S. economy.

Back in Washington, senior White House officials and congressional aides were starting to discuss a path to avert a painful debt default that could come as soon as June 1. Negotiators are racing to strike a budget deal that could unlock a vote on separate debt ceiling legislation. Biden and Capitol Hill leaders are to meet again on Friday.

But McCarthy has shown few signs that he and other House Republicans were willing to budge from their debt limit proposal, leaving Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to warn the speaker is being "reckless."

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, who has stepped aside as McCarthy tries to negotiate with the White House, has assured, "America is not going to default."

McConnell has said that the past several times the debt ceiling has been raised, Congress has attached priorities that were agreed to with the White House, including a deal negotiated between then-President Donald Trump and former Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Treat that special woman in Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, at the Coral Ocean Golf & Resort's Restaurant Olé.

> For just \$59, make your way to the southside and find yourself in the restaurant's elegant and intimate atmosphere with a scenic view of the ocean and Tinian.

> Indulge in their mouth-watering special angus top blade steak that is served directly to your table.

> Don't stop there as also try out their crispy lechon, fresh sashimi, sushi, and fresh oysters.

Dinner time will be set with a romantic and intimate feel



Fresh oysters along with fresh sashimi and sushi are available at the Mother's Day brunch and dinner at the Coral Ocean Golf & Resort this Sunday, May 14.



with candles on your table as you dine on the delicious buffet menu items and honor the matriarch of your household.

A succulent brunch or dinner is not complete without beverages and they have you covered with their inclusive beverages from the Beach Club Live Bar of champagne, red and white wine, cocktails, along with beer, coke, sprite,

Crispy lechon among other delicious food awaits in the Mother's Day brunch and dinner at the Coral Ocean Golf & Resort this Sunday, May 14.

lemonade, iced tea, and coffee.

Brunch is from 11:30am to 2pm, with dinner from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. After brunch, you can also take a swim in their pool until 5pm.

COR's food and beverage supervisor Linda Choi invites families to a well-deserved brunch or dinner celebration for a great way to show appreciation to your mother on their special day.

Brunch slots are filling up quickly but there is more space available for dinner time.

For inquiries and reservations, call (670)237-5026.

G7 finance ministers tackle global economic challenges

debt standoff

NIIGATA, Japan (AP)—The financial leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations will meet in Japan beginning Thursday as a standoff over the U.S. debt ceiling looms as one of the biggest potential threats to the global economy.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said one of her priorities in Niigata, a port city on the Japan Sea coast, would be to emphasize the importance of resolving the standoff over the national debt.

"I will underscore the importance of Congress acting to resolve the debt limit to maintain America's economic leadership and protect the global economy," Yellen said in a tweet Thursday.

Yellen also is bound to be seeking to reassure her counterparts over recent bank failures that have raised worries over risks for the global financial system.

The finance ministers and central bank governors are meeting for three days ahead of a G-7 summit later this month in Hiroshima.

President Joe Biden said

Wednesday that he and congressional leaders had a "productive" meeting Tuesday on trying to raise the nation's debt limit. They will meet again Friday to try to avert the risk ience of an economy whose

as soon as June 1 of an unprecedented government default if lawmakers in the

divided Congress don't agree to raise the debt ceiling.

Biden said he was "absolutely certain" that the country could avert a default, declaring that failure to meet America's obligations, upon which much of the world's finances are based, "is not an option."

Biden said it was "possible but not likely" that he would need to postpone his trip to Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea later this month.

Yellen said in remarks prepared ahead of Thursday's meetings that strengthening the global financial system is a key G-7 priority. So is a renewed show of support for Ukraine as a coalition of over 30 countries seeks to impose heavy economic costs on Russia for its war.

She said Biden's "historic" investments in modernizing U.S. infrastructure were a step toward improving the resil-

>> As Yellen seeks global supply to reassure on chains sorely tested during the CO-

VID-19 pandemic.

"We are taking a broad range of individual and joint actions to bring down inflation, sustain growth, and help mitigate the impact of external shocks, including to developing countries," she said.

The Federal Reserve said in a report this week that U.S. banks raised their lending standards for business and consumer loans in the aftermath of three large bank failures that were in part brought on by the central bank's sharp increases in interest rates to beat down inflation that surge to four-decade highs after the pandemic.

The Fed surveyed 65 U.S. banks and U.S. branches of 19 foreign banks in late March

and early April, well after Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank collapsed in early March, touching off the latest round of bank turmoil. First Republic Bank failed earlier this month in the second-largest bank failure in U.S. history.

Rate increases are meant to slow lending and borrowing but can overshoot their goal, tipping the economy into recession. Moves by banks to further limit lending could further squeeze businesses and consumers.

Inflation has remained stubbornly high. Consumer prices in the United States rose 0.4% in April, up sharply from a 0.1% rise from February to March, and measures of underlying inflation stayed high, a sign that further declines in inflation are likely to be slow and bumpy even though the annual increase of 4.9% was the smallest in two years.

Other G-7 economies are contending with even higher surging prices, obliging their central banks to raise interest rates that went to record lows in the early days of the pandemic.

Plumeria Steakhouse introduces 'happier hour'

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Plumeria Steakhouse will be introducing "happier hour" starting this week.

General manager Steve Hang said it's called that because instead of happy hour, which is typically 5pm-7pm, happier hour begins at 5:30pm and lasts until closing time at 9:30pm.

As usual, a special menu with discounted pricing will be available for customers during happier hour at Plumeria Steakhouse.

"Other places, their happy hour ends at 7pm, but our's will have discounts on the alcohol and discounts on the food until 9:30pm," said Jang.

Plumeria Steakhouse will also have a special Mother's Day dinner this Sunday.

Jang said the special Mother's Day dinner comes with mashed potato, grilled vegetables, soup, salad, and ice tea.

"The brisket is going to be prepared for more than 48 hours—including 16 hours of continuous smoking with four different types of wood flavors like hickory and cherry wood-and the seafood will be made up of scallops



Plumeria Steakhouse is located along Beach Road in Garapan, where the 1959 Bonanza Airplane is located.

and shrimps," he said.

Plumeria Steakhouse will also be adorned with Mother's Day decorations and even a special chair fit for a queen for families who want to capture the moment in their social media pages.

As an added treat, Plumeria Steakhouse will also be giving

mothers who dine with them on Sunday evening a special surprise gift for Mother's Day.

Jang said mothers who want to celebrate their special day earlier can come to Plumeria Steakhouse for breakfast or lunch, as the Garapan restaurant will save them the effort and time preparing those meals with their unbeatable \$6.95 breakfast and delectable \$11.95 lunch specials.

The Mother's Day special dinner is from 5:30pm to 10pm and the price will be announced soon at Plumeria Steakhouse's social media platforms.

breakfast The \$6.95 is available from 7am to



Plumeria Steakhouse's smoked brisket with grilled seafood, mashed potato, and grilled vegetables.

10:30am everyday with last order at 10:30am, while lunch specials are offered from 11am to 2pm.

Plumeria Steakhouse is located along Beach Road, where the 1959 Bonanza Air-

plane is located. Look for the one with the airplane landmark in Garapan. For more information or for reservations, call (670) 233-5454 or check out Plumeria Steakhouse on Facebook.

Fisherman's Wharf brings back buffet

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Fisherman's Wharf Fresh Seafood Restaurant has brought back its Chinese buffet for only \$15.

Owner Cindy Zhang said after stopping their everyday buffet at the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, Fisherman's Wharf is now offering their buffet at a slightly higher price point and initially will only be available on the weekend

"Now \$15 because the prices of everything from ingredients to cooking oil, to fuel, vegetables, eggs, to power have risen. It's Saturday and Sunday first because Monday to Friday I don't think we will have too many people. So we can try the weekend first. If it works then we will expand to the weekdays," said Zhang.

Like their previous buffet spread, Fisherman's Wharf weekend buffet will have a myriad of fish, beef, pork,

chicken, and vegetable dishes-11 items in all. For dessert, they will have fruits and sweet buns and bottomless iced tea and coconut milk. This coming Sunday, Zhang and her staff is preparing a

> spread for mothers and their families this Mother's Day. The Garapan restaurant's \$25 special Mother's Day buffet wil be highlighted by tuna sashimi, shrimps, and crabs

this Sunday, May 14.

sumptuous seafood buffet

Aside from the tuna sashimi and salt and pepper shrimp and crab, the buffet will also include crispy pata, chicken karaage, beef broccoli, sweet and sour pork, crispy fish filet, mapo tofu, combination chop suey, spicy cucumber, chicken kelaguen, sweet corn egg soup, mix pancit canton bihon, shrimp fried rice, lumpiang shanghai, and fried buns and fruits for dessert. It comes with complimentary iced tea and will be from 11am to 2pm.

Fisherman's Wharf Fresh Seafood is on the second floor of the building where Ocean Star II is located along Coconut Street in the tourist district of Garapan. It's open from 10:30am to 2pm and from 4:30pm to 9pm Monday to Friday and only for their buffet on weekends. For reservations, call (670) 233-9995 or (670) 285-6134 or check their Facebook page: Fisherman's Seafood Wharf Saipan.



Google giving dominant search engine artificial-intelligence makeover

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. intelligent chatbot ChatGPT, comers in more than 180

day disclosed plans to infuse its dominant search engine with more advanced artificial-intelligence technology, a drive that's in response to one of the biggest threats to its long-established position as the internet's main gateway.

The gradual shift in how Google's search engine runs is rolling out three months after Microsoft's Bing search engine started to tap into technology similar to that which powers the artificially which has created one of Sili- countries and more language con Valley's biggest buzzes since Apple released the first iPhone 16 years ago.

Google, which is owned by Alphabet Inc., already has been testing its own conversational chatbot called Bard. That product, powered by technology called generative AI that also fuels ChatGPT, has only been available to people accepted from a waitlist. But Google announced Wednesday that Bard will be available to all

es beyond English.

Bard's multilingual expansion will begin with Japanese and Korean before adding about 40 more languages.

Now Google is ready to test the AI waters with its search engine, which has been synonymous with finding things on the internet for the past 20 years and serves as the pillar of a digital advertising empire that generated more than \$220 billion in revenue last year.



Fisherman's Wharf Fresh Seafood Restaurant is on the second floor of the building where Ocean Star II is located along Coconut Street in the tourist district of Garapan.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 **27**

Nation

Migrants seek to beat end of pandemic-related asylum restrictions

MATAMOROS, (AP)—Migrants rushed across the border hours before pandemic-related asylum restrictions were to expire Thursday, fearing that new policies would make it far more difficult to gain entry into the United States.

In a move to clear out overwhelmed holding facilities, Border Patrol agents were told Wednesday to begin releasing some migrants with instructions to appear at an immigration office in the United States within 60 days, according to a U.S. official. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and provided information to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The Biden administration has been unveiling measures to replace Title 42, which suspended rights to seek asylum since March 2020 on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

On Wednesday, the Homeland Security Department announced a rule to make it extremely difficult for anyone who travels through another country, like Mexico, to qualify for asylum. It also introduced curfews with GPS tracking for families released in the U.S. be-



fore initial asylum screenings.

In Matamoros, across from Brownsville, Texas, migrants arrived steadily on Wednesday, stripping down before descending a steep bank clutching plastic bags filled with clothes. They slowly waded into the river, one man holding a baby in an open suitcase on his head.

On the U.S. side, they put on dry clothing and picked their way through concertina wire. Many surrendered to authorities, hoping to be released to stay legally while pursuing their cases in backlogged immigration courts, which takes years.

William Contreras of Venezuela said Title 42 was favorable to people of his wracked South American country, having heard that many before him were released in the United States.

"What we understand is that they won't be letting anyone else in," said Contreras' friend, Pablo, who declined to give his last name because he planned to cross the border illegally. "That's the reason for our urgency to cross through the border today."

The Border Patrol stopped about 10,000 migrants on Tuesday, one of its busiest days ever, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly. That's nearly double the daily average of about 5,200 in March, the latest publicly available data, and close to the 11,000 that U.S. officials have predicted is the upper limit of a surge they anticipate after Title 42.

More than 27,000 people

were in U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody, the official said, well above capacity. In March 8,600 were in custody.

Border Patrol agents were ordered Wednesday to begin releasing migrants in any border sector that reached 125% of its holding capacity with instructions to report to an immigration office within 60 days. They were also told to start the releases if the average time in custody exceeded 60 hours or if 7,000 migrants were taken into custody across the entire border in any one day.

In Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso Texas, some migrant shelters had empty beds as migrants abandoned

Santos pleads not guilty to indictment; won't resign

them to cross into the U.S. Enrique Valenzuela, who coordinates migrant relief efforts for Chihuahua state, said the city's migrant shelter population was half the nearly 3,000 staying there a few weeks ago.

While Title 42 prevented many from seeking asylum, it carried no legal consequences, encouraging repeat attempts. After Thursday, migrants face being barred from entering the U.S. for five years and possible criminal prosecution.

At the same time, the administration has introduced expansive new legal pathways into the U.S. Up to 30,000 people a month from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela can enter if they apply online with a financial sponsor and enter through an airport. Processing centers are opening in Guatemala, Colombia and elsewhere. Up to 1,000 can enter daily though land crossings with Mexico if they snag an appointment on an online app.

In San Diego, more than 100 migrants, many of them Colombian families, slept under plastic tarps between two border walls, watched over by Border Patrol agents who had nowhere to take them for processing.

Albino Leon, 51, bought chicken from Tijuana vendors through slats in the wall bordering San Diego because the cookies that agents gave him, his wife and daughter left them hungry. News that Title 42 was ending prompted the family to make the journey now.

Trump digs in on election lies, insults accuser

By JILL COLVIN ASSOCIATED PRESS

During a contentious CNN town hall Wednesday night, former President Donald Trump dug in on his lies about the 2020 election, downplayed the violence on Jan. 6, 2021, and repeatedly insulted the woman whom a civil jury this week found him liable of sexually abusing and defaming.

Trump, returning to the network after years of acrimony, also refused to say whether he wants Ukraine to win the war against Russian aggression and said the U.S. "might as well" default on its debt obligation, despite the potentially devastating economic consequences.

The live, televised event - held in early-voting New Hampshire — underscored the challenges of fact-checking Trump in real time. The former president was cheered on and applauded by an audience of Republican and unaffiliated voters who plan to vote in the GOP primary, as moderator Kaitlan Collins sometimes struggled to correct the record as Trump steamrolled with untrue statements. "You are a nasty person," he snapped at one point.

The event also highlighted

what is perhaps Trump's most fundamental challenge as he emerged as the undisputed frontrunner for the Republican nomination to take on President Joe Biden again. While Trump's tone and divisive statements often thrill Republican primary crowds, he has so far done little to expand his appeal among the moderates and independents who soured on him in 2020 and will be crucial to winning the general election.

Indeed, Trump on Wednesday repeatedly doubled down on his lies that the 2020 election had been "rigged," even though state and federal election officials, his own campaign and White House aides, and dozens of courts, including Republican judges, have said there is no evidence to support his claims.

He also displayed no remorse for what happened on Jan. 6, when a mob of his supporters violently stormed the Capitol in a bid to halt the certification of Biden's win. He excused his delayed response that day — he was silent for more than three hours as the carnage unfolded — pulling out a printout of his tweeted timeline as a form of defense.

Instead, he lashed out at the Black police officer who shot

and killed rioter Ashli Babbitt, calling him a "thug," despite a Justice Department finding that the shooting was justified. And he said he is inclined to pardon "a large portion" of the rioters charged in the attack. More than 670 people have been convicted of crimes related to that day, including some found guilty of seditious conspiracy or assaulting police officers.

Trump also rejected a suggestion that he apologize to his former vice president, Mike Pence, who was targeted by the mob after Trump wrongly insisted that Pence had the power to overturn the election results.

"I don't feel he was in any danger," he said. In fact, Trump said, Pence was the one who "did something wrong."

He would not commit to accepting the results of the next election, either, saying he would do so only if he feels "it's an honest election"— as he said before the 2020 election.

The primetime forum — the first major television event of the 2024 presidential campaign and Trump's first interview appearance on CNN since before he was elected president in 2016 — drew suspicion from both sides of the political divide as soon as it was announced.

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP)—U.S. Rep. George Santos, infamous for fabricating his life story, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges be dured depose stella from

guilty Wednesday to charges he duped donors, stole from his campaign and lied to Congress about being a millionaire, all while cheating to collect unemployment benefits he didn't deserve.

Afterward, he said he wouldn't drop his reelection bid and defied calls to resign.

Santos' 13-count federal indictment was a reckoning for a web of fraud and deceit that prosecutors say overlapped with the New York Republican's fantastical public image as a wealthy businessman — a fictional biography that began to unravel after he won election last fall.

Santos, 34, was released on \$500,000 bond following his arraignment, about five hours after turning himself in to face charges of wire fraud, money laundering, theft of public funds and making false statements to Congress. He surrendered his passport and could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

"This is the beginning of the ability for me to address and defend myself," a cheerfully combative Santos told reporters swarming him outside a Long Island federal courthouse. He said he's been cooperating with the investigation and vowed to fight the prosecution, which he labeled a "witch hunt."

His lawyer, Joseph Murray, was more circumspect, saying: "Any time the federal government comes after you it's a serious case. We have to take this serious."

Santos said he planned to return to Washington, where the indictment is amplifying doubts about the freshman's ability to serve. House Republican leaders are taking a wait-and-see approach, saying Santos is innocent until proven guilty. Others are reiterating previous calls for Santos to step aside.

"I think we're seeing that the wheels of justice grind slow, but they grind fine," said Sen. Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican who confronted Santos on the House floor at President Joe Biden's State of the Union address in February.

Asked about Santos on Wednesday, Biden said, "I'm not commenting," adding that anything he said would be construed by some interfering in the investigation. Asked if Congress should expel Santos, Biden said, "That's for Congress to decide."

Among the allegations, prosecutors say Santos created a company and then induced supporters to donate to it under the false pretense that the money would be used to support his campaign. Instead, they say, he used the money for personal expenses, including designer clothes and credit card and car payments.

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Asia

S. Korea to lift quarantine mandate

>> Also end testing recommendation for travelers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea will drop its COVID-19 quarantine requirements and end testing recommendations for international arrivals starting next month after the World Health Organization declared the end of the global health emergency.

In lowering the coronavirus alert level from "critical" to plainly "alert" starting June 1, health authorities will also lift mask mandates in pharmacies and small clinics but will continue require mask wearing in large hospitals and long-term care facilities and other medical venues with high infection risks.

The decision was announced during a meeting attended by President Yoon Suk Yeol, where he thanked the country's medical workers and said it was "delightful that people are getting their normal lives back after three and a half years."

He said his government will take steps to improve the country's capacity to deal with future pandemics, including providing stronger support for vaccine developments and expanding international cooperation.

South Korea has been requiring seven-day quarantines for virus carriers. While the mandate will be lifted from June 1, health officials will continue to recommend people to isolate for five days if they test positive for the virus, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said. Travelers had been advised to take PCR tests within three days after arriving in the country, but that recommendation will also be lifted.

Youngmee Jee, KDCA's commissioner, downplayed worries that virus measures were being loosened too quickly, saying that the country's COVID-19 situation was stabilizing, partially because of high vaccination rates and immunity gained through infections during previous waves of the virus.

The fatality rate of COV-ID-19 after a steady decline is now at a similar level with influenza and there are enough medical resources to deal with a modest rise in infections, with about half of the country's 700 hospital beds designated to treat serious cases currently vacant, Jee said.

She said officials will maintain preventive measures

to protect vulnerable groups, including senior citizens and people with medical conditions, and continue financial support to lower the costs of tests and hospitalizations for virus carriers.

"The risk of COVID-19 is not yet over, but considering the decline in cases, improved medical response capacities and high levels of immunity, we have reached a point where we need to step out of an international emergency state and transition toward a long-term management phase," said during a briefing.

The announcement came as health workers reported 20,574 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, which represented a slight increase from last week's level. Lee Sangwon, KDCA's chief of epidemiological investigations, said the pace of the country's COVID-19 infections has moderately increased in recent weeks because of the spread of XBB, a new omicron variant. He said it was unlikely that the spread would develop into another huge wave of the virus.

There are concerns that the lifting of the quarantine mandate will result in people showing up to work when sick, considering the country's notoriously harsh work culture.

World

Holloway suspect could be extradited to the US

LIMA. Peru (AP)—Peru's government will allow the extradition to the United States of the prime suspect in the unsolved 2005 disappearance of American student Natalee Holloway on the Dutch Caribbean Island of Aruba, bringing her family hope there will be justice in the case.

Dutch citizen Joran van der Sloot will face trial for alleged extortion and wire fraud, charges stemming from the Holloway case.

Holloway, who lived in suburban Birmingham, Alabama, was 18 when she was last seen during a trip with classmates to Aruba. She vanished after a night with friends at a nightclub, leaving a mystery that sparked years of news coverage and countless true-crime podcasts. She was last seen leaving a bar with van der Sloot, then 18 years old.

Van der Sloot was identified as a suspect and detained, along with two Surinamese brothers, weeks later. Holloway's body was never found, and no charges were filed in the case. A judge later declared Holloway dead.

Years later, van der Sloot was arrested in Peru for the 2010 murder of 21-year-old Stephany Flores, who was killed five years to the day after Holloway's disappearance. Prosecutors accused van der Sloot of killing Flores, a business student from a prominent family, to rob her after learning she had won money at the casino where the two met. They said he killed her with "ferocity" and "cruelty," beating then strangling her in his hotel room. He pleaded guilty in 2012, and is serving 28 years in prison for the murder.

But his extradition to the U.S. stems from an alleged attempt to profit from his

connection to the Holloway case. A grand jury in Alabama in 2010 indicted van der Sloot on wire fraud and extortion charges, accusing him of trying to extort hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Holloways.

Prosecutors in the U.S. allege van der Sloot accepted \$25,000 in cash from Holloway's family in exchange for a promise to lead them to her body in early 2010, just before he went to Peru.

An FBI agent wrote in an affidavit that van der Sloot reached out to Holloway's mother and wanted to be paid \$25,000 to disclose the location and then another \$225,000 when the remains were recovered. During a recorded sting operation, van der Sloot pointed to a house where he said Holloway was buried but in later emails admitted to lying about the location, the agent said.

ASEAN leader: No progress ending Myanmar civil strife

LABUAN BAJO, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian President Joko Widodo somberly acknowledged to fellow Southeast Asian leaders Thursday that no progress has been made to end the civil strife gripping Myanmar and renewed a call for an end to the violence, including a recent airstrike a rights group called an "apparent war crime."

"I have to be honest," Widodo told fellow leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the final day of their two-day summit in the Indonesian harbor town of Labuan Bajo. "There has been no significant progress in the implementation of the fivepoint consensus.'

ASEAN's chairperson this year, Widodo was referring to a peace plan forged by the 10-nation bloc with Myanmar's top general in 2021 that called for an immediate end to the violence and dialogue among contending parties to be brokered through an ASE-AN special envoy.

Myanmar's military-led government refused to take steps to enforce the plan, prompting ASEAN leaders to exclude the country's rul-

ing generals and their appointees from the bloc's summit meetings. The generals have protested ASEAN's move, which they said strayed from the group's bedrock policy of non-intervention in each other's domestic affairs and deciding by consensus.

Widodo called for unity, a seemingly futile call as he spoke with fellow heads of state in a bayside hotel conference room with the chair reserved for Myanmar's leader empty.

Called a "retreat," the closed-door meeting traditionally takes up any controversial issue any leader would like to raise. Widodo said Myanmar's crisis was at the top of the agenda.

Founded in 1967 as a diverse club of authoritarian regimes, monarchs and nascent democracies, ASEAN has come under international pressure to take tougher steps to address the crisis in Myanmar. But ASEAN members appeared to be divided, with some recommending an easing of punitive actions aimed at isolating Myanmar's generals and allowing its top diplomat and officials back to attend the summit meetings.

"The time for isolation has served its purpose," an internal ASEAN report obtained by The Associated Press cited "some member states" as saying in a meeting of the bloc's top diplomats ahead of the leaders' summit.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim publicly expressed his frustrations. He has said that about 200,000 people have fled to Malaysia to escape the tumult in Myanmar.

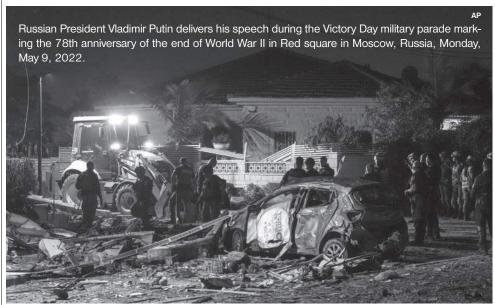
"ASEAN has not been able to resolve most problems, contentious ones," Anwar told fellow leaders on Wednesday in videotaped remarks he posted on his Twitter account. "We are stuck with the principle of non-intervention."

"Yes, there is non-interference, but we will have to then have a new vision that could give us some flexibility in order to navigate and maneuver the way forward," he said.

ASEAN leaders on Wednesday condemned an attack on an aid convoy that their group had arranged for displaced people in Myanmar, calling for an immediate stop to violence and for the military government to comply with a peace plan.

AS EGYPTIAN CEASEFIRE EFFORTS FALTER

Israeli-Palestinian fighting intensifies



BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Thousands marched ing of grief and anger on their programs. against the populist government and how it reacted after two mass shootings last week that left 17 people dead and 21 wounded, many of them children.

The gatherings in Belgrade and the northern city of Novi Sad were dubbed "Serbia against violence." They were called by opposition parties, which demanded the resignations of government ministers and the withdrawal licenses to the

state controlled mainstream media that promote violence in silence on Monday in and often host convicted war Serbia in a major outpour- criminals and crime figures

After the protest officially ended, some of the protesters chanted slogans against Serbia's increasingly autocratic president, Aleksandar Vucic, demanding that he step down, as they passed by government headquarters in Belgrade.

The president later dismissed the protest as "shameful" during an interview on pro-government Happy television. He accused the opposition of abusing people's grief for their political ends and inciting violence.

"It's pure politics," said Vucic, also describing the organizers as "vultures."

The shootings Wednesday in Belgrade at an elementary school, and on Thursday in a rural area south of the capital — left the nation stunned. They triggered calls to encourage tolerance and rid society of widespread hate speech and a gun culture stemming from the 1990s wars.

Education Minister Branko Ruzic submitted his resignation on Sunday and authorities launched a gun crackdown, but opposition said this was too little, too late.

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Off The Wall

'Freaky-looking' fanged fishes are found on Oregon beaches

By BECKY BOHRER and BEATRICE DUPUY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Several scaleless fish with fanged jaws and huge eyes that can be found more than a mile deep in the ocean have washed up along a roughly (322-kilometer) 200-mile stretch of Oregon coastline, and it's unclear why, scientists and experts said.

Within the last few weeks, several lancetfish have appeared on beaches from Nehalem, in northern Oregon, to Bandon, which is about 100 miles (161 kilometers) from the California border, Oregon State Parks said on Facebook. The agency asked beachgoers who see the fish to take photos and post them online, tagging the agency and the NOAA Fisheries West Coast region.

Lancetfish live mainly in tropical and subtropical waters but travel as far north as areas like Alaska's Bering Sea to feed. Their slinky bodies include a "sail-like" fin, and their flesh is gelatinous—not generally something humans wish to eat, according to NOAA Fisheries.

Ben Frable, a fish scientist who manages the Marine Vertebrate Collection at



This combo from photos provided by Miranda Crowell shows lancetfish that washed ashore on the 72nd street beach entrance and the cove in Roads End, Lincoln City, Ore., on April 28, 2023.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego, said it's not uncommon for lancetfish to wash up on beaches, particularly in California and Oregon and in other parts of the north Pacific.

It's unclear what might be behind the deep-sea fish washing ashore, Frable said, calling it an area of "open research." He added that it's not clear if these incidents are happening more frequently or are just noticed more often in the social media age.

Reports of finding the "freaky looking" lancetfish on beaches date back

to the 19th century, he said. The collection he manages includes lancetfish from beaches, including one that wound up on the beach near the institution in late 2021.

In that case, the lancetfish "shot out of the water," where it was mobbed by seagulls, Frable said. It's possible the fish had been chasing prey, such as small fish, and got too close to shore—or that it was pursued by a predator, such as a sea lion, he said.

Some have also hypothesized that such incidents could be related to weather or climate patterns in the Pacific

Hundreds of pounds of pasta dumped near NJ stream

OLD BRIDGE, N.J. (AP)— Authorities in a central New Jersey town say they are no longer noodling over the mystery of how hundreds of pounds of pasta were dumped near a stream.

Old Bridge Mayor Owen Henry said Friday that the pasta, including spaghetti and macaroni, was cleaned up last week by public works crews, shortly after officials learned about the oodles of noodles that quickly drew national attention when photos of the pasta were posted on social media.

The estimated 500 pounds (225 kilograms) of pasta were apparently raw when it was dumped, but subsequent heavy rains softened the food and made the mounds look like they had been cooked, officials have said. It's unclear who dumped the pasta there or why, but it's not believed the pasta had been at the site for long before it was discovered.

Henry said the pasta did not cause any environmental damage or health issues and he considers the matter closed.

"It certainly shouldn't have ended up in the woods—put-



This photo provided by Nina Jochnowitz shows hundreds of pounds of pasta that was dumped near a stream in Old Bridge, N.J., on Friday, April 28, 2023.

ting in or near the stream bed was not the best idea—but I certainly hope our police are not putting more time into this" he

said. "Assuming the pasta was still usable, I wish it had ended up in our food bank, which could have really used it."

Science & Technology

Facebook has 3B users. Many of them are old.

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Facebook says it is not dead. Facebook also wants you to know that it is not just for "old people," as young people have been saying for years.

Now, with the biggest thorn in its side—TikTok facing heightened government scrutiny amid growing tensions between the U.S. and China, Facebook could, perhaps, position itself as a viable, domesticbred alternative.

There's just one problem: young adults like Devin Walsh have moved on.

"I don't even remember the last time I logged in. It must have been years ago," said Walsh, 24, who lives in Manhattan and works in public relations.

Instead, she checks Instagram, which is also owned by Facebook parent company Meta, about five or six times a day. Then there's TikTok, of course, where she spends about an hour each day scrolling, letting the algorithm find things "I didn't even know I was interested in."

Walsh can't imagine a world in which Facebook, which she joined when she was in 6th grade, becomes a regular part of her life again.

"It's the branding, right? When I think of Facebook, I think ugh, like cheugy, older people, like parents posting pictures of their kids, random status updates and also people fighting about political issues," Walsh said, using the Gen Z term for things that are definitely not cool.

The once-cool social media platform born before the iPhone is approaching two decades in existence. For those who came of age around the time Mark Zuckerberg launched thefacebook.com from his Harvard dorm room in 2004, it's been inextricably baked into daily life—even if it's somewhat faded into the background over the years.

Facebook faces a particularly odd challenge. Today, 3 billion people check it each month. That's more than a third of the world's population. And 2 billion log in every day. Yet it still finds itself in a battle for relevancy, and its future, af-



An iPhone displays the Facebook app in New Orleans, Aug. 11,

ter two decades of existence.

For younger generations those who signed up in middle school, or those who are now in middle school, it's decidedly not the place to be. Without this trend-setting demographic, Facebook, still the main source of revenue for parent company Meta, risks fading into the background—utilitarian but boring, like email.

It wasn't always like this. For nearly a decade, Facebook was the place to be, the cultural touchstone, the thing constantly referenced in daily conversations and late-night TV, its founding even the subject of a Hollywood movie. Rival MySpace, which launched only a year earlier, quickly became outdated as the cool kids flocked to Facebook. It didn't help MySpace's fate that it was sold to stodgy old News Corp. in 2005.

"It was this weird combination...no one knew how technology worked, but in order to have a MySpace, we all needed to become mini coders. It was so stressful." said Moira Gaynor, 28. "Maybe that's even why Facebook took off. Because compared to MySpace it was this beautiful, integrated, wonderful engagement area that we didn't have before and we really craved after struggling with MySpace for so long.

Positioning himself a visionary, Zuckerberg refused to sell Facebook and pushed his company through the mobile revolution. While some rivals emerged—remember Orkut?—they generally petered out as Facebook soared, seemingly unstoppable despite scandals over user privacy and a failure to address hate speech and misinformation adequately. It reached a billion daily users in 2015.

Debra Aho Williamson, an analyst with Insider Intelligence who's followed Facebook since its early days, notes that the site's younger users have been dwindling but doesn't see Facebook going anywhere, at least not any time soon.

"The fact that we are talking about Facebook being 20 years old, I think that is a testament of what Mark developed when he was in college. It's pretty incredible," she said. "It is still a very powerful platform around the world.'

AOL was once powerful too, but its user base has aged and now an aol.com email address is little more than a punchline in a joke about technologically illiterate people of a certain age.

Tom Alison, who serves as the head of Facebook (Zuckerberg's title is now Meta CEO), sounded optimistic when he outlined the platform's plans to lure in young adults in an interview with The Associated Press.

"We used to have a team at Facebook that was focused on younger cohorts, or maybe there was a project or two that was dedicated to coming up with new ideas," Alison said. "And about two years ago we said no-our entire product line needs to change and evolve and adapt to the needs of the young adults."

He calls it the era of "social discovery."

"It's very much motivated by what we see the next generation wanting from social media. The simple way that I like to describe it is we want Facebook to be the place where you can connect with the people you know, the people you want to know and the people that you should know," Alison said.

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Life & Style

Martin Scorsese set to stir Cannes again, 47 years after 'Taxi Driver'

By JAKE COYLE AP FILM WRITER

When Martin Scorsese premieres his latest film, "Killers of the Flower Moon," at the Cannes Film Festival on May 20th, it will return Scorsese to a festival where he remains a key part of its fabled history.

Scorsese premiered his masterpiece of urban alienation, "Taxi Driver," in Cannes in 1976. Its debut was one of the most fevered in Cannes history. drawing boos and some walkouts for the violence in Scorsese's tale of the disillusioned New York cab driver Travis Bickle (Robert De Niro). The playwright Tennessee Williams, then the jury president, condemned the film.

"Films should not take a voluptuous pleasure in spilling blood and lingering on terrible cruelties as though one were at a Roman circus," Williams said.

Yet "Taxi Driver" neverthe-

less won Cannes' top honor, the Palme d'Or. Having heard of Williams' disapproval, Scorsese and company had

already flown home, with dashed hopes of any big award.

"I got a call from Marion (publicist) Billings around five in the morning saying, 'You've won the Palme d'Or," Scorsese

later recalled to The Hollywood Reporter. "We thought we might get screenplay or best actor for De Niro, so it was very surprising."

"Taxi Driver" wasn't Scors-

Scorsese

ese's first time in Cannes. Two years earlier, he had premiered his breakthrough feature, "Mean Streets," in Directors

> Fortnight, a selection of films typically from up-and-coming directors that plays outside Cannes' main stage, the Palais des Festival.

"Cannes was the international platform for 'Mean Streets,' a film

I didn't think would even get distributed," Scorsese said in a 2018 Cannes talk commemorating the film's debut.

"My visit was almost the best time, in terms of anonymity. And trying very hard to change that!" he said. "I was able to go from table to table on the Croisette and meet actors, directors, and so many others. It was still a period of discovery, not just for new filmmakers but older, neglected filmmakers."

Between "Mean Streets" and "Taxi Driver," Cannes played a pivotal role in announcing Scorsese's arrival as a major filmmaking talent. He has ever since maintained a close relationship with the festival, though it's become rarer for Scorsese to launch a film there.

Oprah teams with Arthur C. Brooks on book about happiness

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's latest book project is one she helped write. Winfrey has teamed with the author, educator and Atlantic columnist Arthur C. Brooks on "Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier," to be published Sept. 12 by Portfolio Books.

"I started reading Arthur Brooks' column 'How to Build a Life' during the early days of the pandemic," Winfrey said in a statement released Wednesday by Portfolio, a Penguin Random House imprint. "I found myself happily anticipating each week's lesson, which turned out to be a recipe for growing forward. When I discovered he taught happiness at Harvard, I wanted to extend that to the rest of us."

Brooks, who teaches a "Leadership and Happiness" class at Harvard, said in a statement that he had long admired Winfrey, who last year praised his bestseller "From Strength to Strength" and interviewed him for her "Super Soul" podcast.

"As a social scientist, I look at the data and evidence on what leads to the greatest happiness, while Oprah knows how to reach people at the most important critical points in their lives," he said. "This book will introduce readers to the incredible science of happiness, based on the best research available.'

Other books written or cowritten by Winfrey include "What I Know for Sure," "The Path Made Clear" and "Food, Health and Happiness."

Beyoncé dazzles fans in 'Renaissance' world tour opening concert

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Tens of thousands of fans descended upon the Swedish capital of

Stockholm to celebrate the opening show of Beyoncé's new world tour on Wednesday.

"Renaissance" is the superstar's first solo tour since 2016 and shares the namesake Beyoncé of her 2022 dance-

centric album, the success of which landed Beyoncé at the top of the Grammy throne as the ceremony's most decorated artist in history.

Fans who had complained

in recent months about the lack of music videos for "Renaissance" hits were in for a treat

Wednesday as video projections and animations took center stage. The rapid succession of costume changes and decor shifts was baffling. The singer played on interactions

between a digital and physical world where robotic devices make space for weird silver moon rovers or an inflatable horse. Even Queen Bey herself morphs into a cybernetic character.

Seems confusing? It was.

Yet despite the impressive scale of the stage set, some moments still felt intimate. Beyoncé expressed heartfelt gratitude to fans for traveling from afar to witness her perform. She reached for songs spanning across her two-decade career, kicking off the show with "Dangerously in Love," the title track of her 2003 first solo album, moving through 2011 female empowerment anthem "Run the World (Girls)" and dishing up a good selection of hits from "Renaissance" itself.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

AP source: Vice President Kamala Harris postpones MTV event due to Hollywood writers' strike

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Hollywood writers' strike that's snarling the television and movie industries has now scrambled the White House schedule. An MTV special on mental health that was expected to feature Vice President Kamala Harris next week has been postponed, according to her office. A person familiar with the decision said Harris chose not to travel to the Los Angeles-area event because that would have been seen as crossing the picket line. That's a political nonstarter for Democrats who rely on union support.

Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos withdraws from PEN America gala, citing writers strike

NEW YORK (AP)—Citing the current Hollywood writers strike, Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos will not be attending next week's PEN America Gala in Manhattan, when he was to accept a Business Visionary Award. PEN America will not be presenting the award this year, saying the honor is premised upon the recipient accepting in person. The Gala, to be held May 18 at the American Museum of Natural History, is one of the year's literary highlights and will feature the

presentation of several awards, including one to "Saturday Night Live" creator Lorne Michaels for Literary Service. "Given the threat to disrupt this wonderful evening, I thought it was best to pull out so as not to distract from the important work that PEN America does for writers and journalists, as well as the celebration of my friend and personal hero Lorne Michaels," Sarandos said in a statement released Wednesday by Netflix. "I hope the evening is a great success."

French expert in Russian history wins Spanish award

MADRID (AP)—Ninety-three-year-old French historian Hélène Carrère d'Encausse, an eminence in Russian and Central Asian history, has won Spain's Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences, prize organizers said Wednesday. The awards foundation said Carrère d'Encausse was "one of the most brilliant, original and distinguished personalities of French historiography and contemporary European thought." In a note, the panel of judges added that her work "probably constitutes the greatest substantive contribution that has been made in recent decades to the knowledge of the Soviet Union and Russia, one of the essential issues for understanding the contemporary world."

Wife reflects on long marriage to alcoholic

EAR ABBY: I have been married for 39 years to a kind, supportive and loving man. We are both retired. He stays fit with daily exercise, reads, keeps track of our financials and is fun to be with. However, he's a high-functioning alcoholic. His personality bends to unsavory during most of the evening hours. He will never go to counseling, and support groups for me are not close by.

He was always the breadwinner and provided a good income for our family. He was also a good father to our two sons. (I suspect that our 34-year-old son may also be an alcoholic.) Over the years, I have gone from compassionate to furious about my husband's drinking. He often hides how much he consumes. I never know if it's just the two to three nightly beers or the hidden bottle of wine or whiskey in the trash. I recently discovered he also has been smoking pot.

I used to be a social person. We have the opportunity to travel, but it was disastrous in the past. How should a wife deal with an alcoholic in the home?

OVERWHELMED IN FLORIDA

DEAR OVERWHELMED: You can't fix your husband. Only he can do that IF he's motivated. A spouse like you should join a support group for the families of alcoholics. If one isn't geographically convenient, understand that meetings are also offered online and can provide help and support.

Consider asserting some independence and stop allowing your husband's problem to isolate you. Pursue some of your own interests. Because you would like to travel, join a group and go without him. It could provide a much-needed break from the stress you are experiencing.

I hope you realize that at some point you will have to decide whether you are willing to spend the rest of your life hunkered down to avoid the nastiness of a belligerent drunk every evening. If not, you can talk to a lawyer about a separation. But that may be a discussion for another day.

DEAR ABBY: I had a very good relationship with my daughter-in-law. In fact, I treated her like my own daughter and showered her with gifts. People told me she'd been gossiping about me and saying how much she dislikes me. I feel betrayed, so I have distanced myself from her and no longer want her near me.

AM I a vindictive mother-in-law? I love my grandson, but I need my privacy, too. What will I do during holidays when family needs to get together? I no longer trust her, and I cannot wear a fake smile. Am I overreacting?

DISILLUSIONED IN THE WEST

DEAR DISILLUSIONED: If what you were told about

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren LINIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

upset her. Then listen.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAb-

CA 90069.

by.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, your daughter-in-law is true, you are not overreacting. However, you won't know if the information is accurate or in what context something may have been said until you have been told by HER. This is why you need to have a face-to-face conversation in which you ask directly if what

you heard was true and if you have done something that

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are in*cluded in the price.)*

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Yesterday's answer 5-12

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King

Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emily VanCamp, 37; Domhnall Gleeson, 40; Tony Hawk, 55; Ving Rhames, 64.

Happy Birthday: Your motives will determine what you do next. Be sure to align yourself with like-minded people who will increase your chances of getting what you want. Keep your emotions hidden from those capable of turning the tables on your plans. A change at home will make your life easier and promote an energetic disposition that will enforce what you are trying to achieve. Your numbers are 9, 11, 21, 24, 33, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll get the help you need if you ask, but you'll falter if you do everything yourself. Keep the peace and focus on what you do best; everything else will fall into place. Give others the freedom to carry out their duties without interference.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Discipline, coupled with charm, will help you make your case. Summon the best people to help you complete your mission. Be the driving force behind your plans. You can expect to overcome any setback. Romance is favored. 👀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Rethink your plan and consider if it's based on emotions or common sense. Refuse to let anyone influence you. Research, and make decisions based on experience, knowledge and facts. Take nothing for granted; see matters through to the end.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Show your appreciation, dedication and love for someone who has supported and inspired you, and you'll receive an unexpected ad-

ditional favor that will improve your life. An emotional situation will escalate due to a last-minute change someone makes. Prepare to act fast. 200

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look at the possibilities, but don't act hastily. Take the time to figure out what's best for you and how to use your attributes to the best of your ability. Focus on your goal, and don't stop until it's satisfactory.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A practical attitude will strengthen your work ethic and integrity. Discuss your plans and offer incentives to those who have something to contribute. Love is in the stars, and a commitment can bring you closer to your dream. Make fitness a priority.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can admire something without spending. Calculate your debts and put a plan in place that helps you save more or invest in a sure thing. Now is not the time to take chances, but building equity is a safe bet. **QQQQQ**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Problems that arise at home or within a partnership will cause you to second-guess your next move. Be intelligent and disciplined in your approach. Get along with everyone and offer helpful suggestions. Be the positive source behind decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let emotions confuse you. Look at the facts, then account for how others

will react before you make a decision that can influence your position or a relationship you cherish. Consider every angle before committing to anything or anyone.

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look at

your options and lean toward whatever favors making money, improving your home environment, and feeling comfortable with your life and personal progress. Keep your spending habits to a bare minimum. Avoid emotional purchases or trying to buy love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A change of heart will blindside you. Don't take anything or anyone for granted. You'll be disappointed if you let someone talk you into something that makes you feel uncertain. Look for an alternative if you are unhappy with how a situation unfolds. OOO

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your heart and soul into preparation and improvement. The changes you make to yourself and your surroundings or lifestyle will lift your spirits and open your mind to many new and exciting possibilities. Love and romance will enhance

your life. OOO Birthday Baby: You are passionate, optimistic and

playful. You are imaginative and driven. O: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. OO: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 999: Focus and you'll

reach your goals. OCOO: Aim high; start new projects.

By DAVID

RRYC

OOOO: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

contany, vertically, haddening and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

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HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed be

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty: ***

5/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

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The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WoncerWordBooks.com, or cal. 1-800-642-6480.

Curry, Warriors force Game 6 by beating Lakers, 121-106

SAN FRANCIS-CO (AP)—Draymond Green loved Golden State's defensive energy against LeBron James and knows the Warriors must

bring that same urgency back to Los Angeles with another chance to save this topsy-turvy season and defend their title.

They need the same focus again whether or not Lakers star Anthony Davis is clogging up the middle after he suffered a head injury in the fourth quarter.

Stephen Curry had 27 points and eight assists, Andrew Wiggins added 25 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and the reigning champion Warriors staved off elimination by beating the Lakers 121-106 in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals Wednesday night.

The Warriors have rallied before with this core group on the big postseason stage, becoming the first defending champion to come back from 2-0 down to beat Sacramento in the first round.

"We're champions, so there's pressure every time you step on the floor," Green said. "You go out there, you don't win people are ready to crush you. People forget about the things that you've done in the past."

James had 25 points and nine rebounds for Los Angeles. Davis added 23 points and nine rebounds but went to the locker room late after getting hit in the head by Kevon Looney as they fought for position in the paint on D'Angelo Russell's layup with 7:43 remaining.

Davis grabbed at his head grimacing before going to the locker room. His status for Game 6 on Friday night back in Los Angeles is unclear but coach Darivn Ham was encouraged afterward without providing details on what evaluation — such as concussion testing — the big man went through once in the locker room. TNT reported Davis required a wheelchair to go to the locker room.

"Obviously, everyone saw he took a shot to the head, but we just checked in on him, he seems to be doing really good already," Ham said. "That's just where he's at. That's the status of it right now."

Austin Reaves made a 3-pointer with 5:25 to play that cut the Warriors' lead to single digits at 104-95 only for Curry to answer with five straight points, then he hit another big shot after Russell connected from deep.

Green contributed 20 points and 10 rebounds as Golden State played tough defense



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry shoots against the Los Angeles Lakers during the second half of Game 5 of an NBA basket-ball second-round playoff series Wednesday, May 10, 2023, in San Francisco.

that led to better chances on the offensive end—just as coach Steve Kerr has challenged his team to to.

"Our defensive mindfulness was there," Curry said.

Now, it's back to LA where the Lakers 5-0 at home this postseason, having won eight consecutive games on their own floor since losing to the Bulls on March 26.

Golden State is trying rally from a 3-1 series deficit for only the second time in franchise history and will try to win one more to bring Game 7 back to Chase Center on Sunday. The Warriors rallied from 3-1 down in the 2016 Western Conference finals against Oklahoma City.

Curry beat the halftime buzzer with a 3-pointer over Lonnie Walker IV as the Warriors took a 70-59 lead. The 70 first-half points were the most Golden State in the playoffs since scoring 72 in a Game 6 first-round win over the Clippers in 2019. The last team to score 70 or more in a first half of a playoff game versus the Lakers was Phoenix with 71 in Game 4 of the 2000 second round.

Green and Wiggins took turns on James and Golden State tried to take Davis out of rhythm after he had 23 points, 15 rebounds, three steals and two assists in Game 4.

Curry shot 12 for 24 but just 3 of 11 from long range coming off his third career playoff triple-double in a 104-101 Game 4 loss.

"I have a lot of confidence we can come back in this series," Curry said. "And until otherwise, we stay in that kind of mindset." The Warriors, who had used five lineup combinations in their initial 11 postseason games, stuck with Gary Payton II for the second straight game — and it paid off.

He scored 13 points and converted a timely three-point play with 7:34 remaining to go with six rebounds.

Jordan Poole came off the bench and hit his first 3 since Game 1 late in the second quarter after going 0 for 8 the previous three games.

Klay Thompson struggled again. He went 3 for 11 in Monday's loss to mark just the eighth time in his 150 postseason games that he scored in single digits — and three of the previous seven came before Kerr became coach in 2014.

On Thursday, he missed his initial four shots and 6 of his first seven to finish with 10—but has a history of spectacular Game 6 performances and goes back to LA with a chance to shine.

KNICKS 112, HEAT 103

NEW YORK (AP)—Jalen Brunson never talked to his coach about how minutes he would play, or how many points he had to score.

In the situation the Knicks faced, there's no need for talk.

"Nothing was said at all," Brunson said. "What-

ever it takes."

It might take the same effort again in two nights.

Brunson had 38 points, nine rebounds and seven assists while playing all 48 minutes in a season-extending performance, and New York beat the Miami Heat 112-103 on Wednesday night in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Knicks denied the Heat's first attempt to become just the second No. 8 seed to reach the conference finals and sent the series back to Miami for Game 6 on Friday night.

RJ Barrett added 26 points and Julius Randle—his face a little swollen after getting hit by Bam Adebayo in the first quarter—had 24 for the fifth-seeded Knicks, who stayed alive in hopes of reaching the conference finals for the first time since 2000. They did that by getting by the Heat in seven games in the second round, a possibility that still exists.

The Knicks built a 19-point lead in the third quarter, then hung on when the Heat finally got their 3-pointers to start falling and cut it to two with 2 1/2 minutes remaining.

"You've got to kind of scratch and claw and do whatever you can to win the game," Barrett said.

Jimmy Butler had 19 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Heat, getting held below 25 points for the first time in this postseason. Bam Adebayo added 18 points and Duncan Robinson had 17.

Butler poured in 42 points when the Heat finished off Milwaukee in Game 5 in the first round but took only 12 shots Wednesday, even while playing the entire second half.

"It doesn't matter if I score 40 or 50 or 19 or nine, we always have enough to win," Butler said. "And if I score 10 points in that game and we win, that wouldn't be an issue, wouldn't be a question and I will continue to play the right way."

The 1999 Knicks, for now, remain the only No. 8 to get to a conference finals in the current playoff format that began in 1984. They got all the way to the NBA Finals after upsetting the top-seeded Heat in the first round.

The Knicks used a pair of huge quarter-opening runs—18-2 to begin the second and 23-7 in the third—to build a 73-54 lead midway through the third quarter. The Heat got it all the way down to 103-101 before Isaiah Hartenstein—in the game because the Heat were intentionally fouling starting center Mitchell Rob-

inson — slammed home a follow dunk to start New York's finishing kick.

Only once the Knicks had held on could Brunson finally get a break.

"You have to respect him as a competitor and then find a way to get the job done," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And he was able to get the job done, make those big, important plays."

Quentin Grimes also went all 48 minutes for the Knicks, finishing with eight points. Coach Tom Thibodeau didn't rule either using both his starting guards the same way in Miami.

"We'll see what Game 6 brings," he said. "If it requires them to do that, then I'm not afraid to do it."

The Heat dominated Game 3 and outworked the Knicks in the fourth quarter to hold on and take Game 4, positioning themselves to wrap up a series in five games for the second time in this postseason. They began it by knocking off Milwaukee, which had the best record in the league.

But they missed 21 of their first 25 3-pointers and were still down 13 with 9 1/2 minutes before Robinson and Kyle Lowry each made a pair in a 12-3 burst that trimmed it to 95-91 with more than half the final period remaining.

Butler had one of his typical do-everything stretches with a basket, a blocked shot and a free throw to cut it to 103-101, but the Heat couldn't come all the way back like they did in the deciding game against the Bucks, when they were down by 16 points.

They led 24-14 after one, but Butler began the second quarter on the bench and the Knicks capitalized. They pushed the pace to get rare easy shots and Barrett made two 3-pointers in an 18-2 spurt that gave them a 32-26 lead.

Randle's 3-pointer made it 50-47 at the half. Kevin Love got the first basket of the third, but Barrett and Brunson answered with consecutive 3-pointers to ignite the Knicks' next spurt. The lead was eight before an 11-0 surge, featuring back-to-back 3-pointers by Brunson and Randle, pushed it to 73-54 midway through the period.

Robinson finished 4 of 8 at the line, ending with eight points and 11 rebounds.

Banchero only unanimous 1st-team All-Rookie selection

NEW YORK (AP)—Rookie of the year Paolo Banchero of the Orlando Magic headlined the All-Rookie team, released by the NBA on Monday.

Banchero was the only player to be selected as a first-

teamer on all 100 ballots. He was joined on the first team by Walker Kessler of the Utah Jazz, Bennedict Mathurin of the Indiana Pacers, Keegan Murray of the Sacramento Kings and Jalen Williams of

the Oklahoma City Thunder.

They were also the top five vote-getters in the rookie of the year balloting.

Detroit teammates Jaden Ivey and Jalen Duren made the second team, as did Houston teammates Jabari Smith Jr. and Tari Eason, along with San Antonio's Jeremy Sochan.

The NBA's All-Defensive team will be revealed Tuesday, and All-NBA will be announced Wednesday.

Semien, Dunning lift Rangers over Mariners, win series



homered and drove in a pair of runs, Dane Dunning allowed only two runs in six strong innings and the Texas Rangers beat the Seattle Mariners 4-3 on Wednesday.

Dunning (3-0) scattered six hits, struck out five and avoided any major trouble.

Semien's solo home run led off the third inning, when the Rangers got to Seattle ace Luis Castillo. Nathaniel Lowe and Jonah Heim both had RBI doubles later in the inning, Heim's coming with two outs. Castillo (2-1) needed 37 pitches to get out of the inning and was done after five innings. He struck out nine and allowed eight hits.

Seattle's J.P. Crawford scored on an error in the first inning and had an RBI single in the fifth. Jarred Kelenic hit a two-out RBI triple in the eighth off reliever Brock Burke to pull the Mariners within a run.

Will Smith pitched the ninth for his sixth save.

ORIOLES 2, RAYS 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Dean Kremer pitched six scoreless innings and Baltimore edged out Tampa Bay to take two of three in a series between the top two teams in the American League.

Kremer (4-1) allowed four hits and the Orioles broke through for two runs in the sixth. After allowing a single and a double, Yonny Chirinos (1-1) committed a pitch clock violation with the count 3-1 on Ryan Mountcastle. That walk loaded the bases with nobody out.

Yennier Cano pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

RED SOX 5, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Kenley Jansen became the seventh player in major league history to earn 400 saves, pinch-hitter Raimel Tapia hit a go-ahead RBI double in the seventh inning, and Boston snapped a two-game skid.

Jansen, who had 41 saves last year in his only season with the Braves, faced four batters for his ninth save in 10 chances.

Facing reliever Nick Anderson, Tapia drove in Jarren Duran from second to make it 3-2. The run was charged to A.J. Minter (2-4).

The Braves didn't score a run against Boston starter Brayan Bello (2-1) until Ronald Acuña Jr. hit his seventh homer, a 470-foot shot to left with an exit velocity of 113.9 mph to trim the lead to 2-1 in the sixth. It was Acuña's longest homer of the season and



Texas Rangers shortstop Ezequiel Duran celebrates with teammate Marcus Semien (2) after a 4-3 win against the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game Wednesday, May 10, 2023, in Seattle.

the fourth-longest of his career. headfirst into the plate.

DODGERS 8, BREWERS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Freddie Freeman homered and drove in three runs and Clayton Kershaw won his National League-best sixth game as Los Angeles beat Milwaukee to take the three-game series.

Will Smith and Miguel Vargas also went deep for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who top the NL in home runs (64).

Kershaw (6-2) struck out eight batters and walked none over seven innings while allowing five hits. Besides giving up a home run to William Contreras, he allowed only one other runner to reach second base.

The Dodgers scored seven runs in five innings off Milwaukee starter Wade Miley (3-2).

PHILLIES 2, BLUE JAYS 1, **10 INNINGS**

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Edmundo Sosa scored on Bryce Harper's hard-hit grounder in the 10th inning after Toronto shortstop Bo Bichette's throwing error and YANKEES 11, Philadelphia came back for its **ATHLETICS 3** third consecutive win.

With Sosa on second base to start the 10th, Tim Mayza (1-1) struck out Bryson Stott before walking Trea Turner to put runners on first and second with one out. Harper lined a bouncer toward the mound and Mayza made a good play to snare it and fired to second base to set up an apparent double play. But Bichette's throw went wide of first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Sosa just beat Guerrero's throw home while sliding

The Blue Jays challenged plate umpire Chad Fairchild's safe call, but replays confirmed the call on the field.

ROCKIES 4, PIRATES 3

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jurickson Profar hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the top of the seventh inning and Colorado rallied past a struggling Pittsburgh.

Less than 24 hours after homering twice in a 10-1 rout, Profar gave the Rockies their eighth win in 10 games by lacing a Robert Stephenson (0-1) pitch into left field to score Austin Wynns. Alan Trejo had two hits and an RBI for Colorado. Randal Grichuk added a run-scoring double as the Rockies earned their thirdstraight series win.

Brad Hand (2-1) earned the win in relief by inheriting a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the sixth and wiggling out of it. Pierce Johnson struck out Josh Palacios with the tying run on third in the ninth to record his sixth save in as many chances.

NEW YORK (AP)—Rookie Anthony Volpe hit his first career grand slam to cap a sevenrun fifth inning and New York pulled away to rout Oakland and complete their first series sweep this season.

Harrison Bader hit a three-run homer in the first inning that was upheld after a review and DJ LeMahieu added a two-run shot in the fifth. The Yankees hit nine homers in the series.

New York starter Jhony Brito allowed two runs and left after Brent Rooker doubled and Jimmy Cordero (2-1) got out of a bases-loaded jam in the fifth.

MARLINS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Jesús Sánchez hit a three-run homer and started the winning rally in the ninth with a double and Miami improved to 12-0 in one-run games, the best start to a season in baseball history in that category.

Sánchez led off the ninth against Andrew Chafin (2-1) with an opposite-field double to left. Miguel Castro relieved and Bryan De La Cruz ran for Sánchez and advanced to third on Jon Berti's groundout. Joey Wendle doubled down the line in left to drive in the go-ahead run.

ASTROS 5, ANGELS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Cristian Javier struck out 11 over six strong innings of three-hit ball, and Houston overcame Shohei Ohtani's two-run homer in the ninth inning to beat Los Angeles.

Ohtani made things interesting with a two-run shot off Houston closer Ryan Pressly in the ninth, golfing a curveball below the zone into the right-field stands for his eighth homer following Mike Trout's leadoff single.

Anthony Rendon and Hunter Renfroe then delivered singles, but Pressly retired three straight Angels to complete his sixth save.

Houston got back-toback outstanding starts from Framber Valdez and Javier (3-1), who allowed three

five hits in 4 1/3 innings. He runs and struck out 23 over 14 combined innings.

TWINS 4, PADRES 3, 11 INNINGS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Alex Kirilloff's single in the 11th inning scored automatic runner Max Kepler and Minnesota pulled out a win against San Diego.

With Kepler on second, Carlos Correa was intentionally walked. Kirilloff then pulled a pitch from Domingo Tapia (0-1) down the right-field line to help Minnesota snap a threegame losing streak.

Griffin Jax (2-4) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the top of the 11th to secure the win for the Twins after both teams scored their automatic runners in the 10th.

Kepler homered, doubled and scored three runs for Minnesota, which got another quality start from Pablo López.

METS 2, REDS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Justin Verlander pitched seven innings of two-hit ball for his first victory with the Mets, and Pete Alonso hit his major league-leading 13th home run as New York squeezed out a win over Cincinnati.

Brandon Nimmo had three hits for the Mets, including a go-ahead single in the fourth to help New York win for only the fourth time in 16 games.

Verlander (1-1) retired 18 of the last 19 batters he faced in his second start for the Mets after returning from a muscle strain in his upper back. He struck out seven and walked two as the Mets (18-19) snapped a three-game skid.

Adam Ottavino pitched a

perfect eighth before David Robertson struck out two in a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save in seven opportunities.

Reds right-hander Hunter Greene (0-3), in his fourth start since signing a \$53 million, six-year contract on April 17, stranded six baserunners in six innings, but he allowed just two runs on six hits with four strikeouts and a season-high four walks. He also hit a batter with a pitch.

CUBS 10, CARDINALS 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Patrick Wisdom and Yan Gomes homered to lead unbeaten Justin Steele and Chicago snapped a three-game skid.

Steele (6-0) gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings, striking out three and walking three. He joined Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw as the only six-game winners in the National League.

Nolan Arenado hit his first triple of the season for St. Louis, which had won three straight after dropping eight in a row.

Jordan Montgomery (2-5) lost for the fifth time in six starts after giving up six runs in five innings. He issued a pair of walks to load the bases in the second but caught Christopher Morel looking at a third strike to escape the jam.

TIGERS 5, GUARDIANS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Eduardo Rodriguez struck out eight over seven innings, Javier Báez had two hits and two runs and Detroit cruised over Cleveland to win the three-game series.

Rodriguez (4-2) gave up four hits and two walks, allowing only two runners past first base in his sixth straight dominant performance. The left-hander is 4-0 with a 0.43 ERA and 41 strikeouts in 41 2/3 innings since April 12.

Báez singled, doubled and scored twice in the first three innings as the Tigers built a 5-0 lead. Andy Ibañez and Akil Baddoo each had RBI doubles, Spencer Torkelson singled in a run and Riley Greene plated another off Cleveland starter Peyton Battenfield (0-4).

Jason Foley and Chasen Shreve wrapped up the combined four-hitter and Detroit's fourth shutout of the season. The Tigers handed the Guardians their fifth series loss in six home series this season.

NATIONAL 11, GIANTS 6 SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

Riley Adams and Lane Thomas homered, Josiah Gray pitched seven strong innings and Washington beat San Francisco in the rubber match of a three-game series.

Asahi, Hagu La'mun slip past opponents in BASA

By LEIGH GASES



Asahi and Hagu La'mun

slipped past their opponents in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the DanDan Softball Field last Sunday.

In close games, Asahi held onto their lead against the Man Amigos, 13-12, while Hagu La'mun did the same to win against Momma Charo, 14-13.

Asahi had a big eight-run second inning and held on to propel them eventually to the win later in the game. A home run was made by S.R. Matsutaro followed by base hits by Marino Hiroichi and Allen Teliu.

Three batters reached base on walks issued by Man Amigos pitcher Eric Palacios and he allowed two more singles before three outs ended the inning.

Man Amigos' offense was almost nonexistent in the first four innings with only four runs scored. They found some traction in the fifth inning when back-to-back singles were made by Palacios, Peter Sablan, and Joey Dela Cruz.

The bases were cleared after a long triple off the bat of Mark Toves that made it a 11-8 game in favor of Asahi.

Asahi pitcher Dom Hideo



hit a two-run home run in chance at bat.

to the win even after Mom-

MPU FC 4, Paire 3

MSL 1

past Paire, 4-3.

scoring goals.

for a 1-1 draw.

LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Asahi's Dom Hideo swings at a pitch during one of their games in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the DanDan Softball Field.

the sixth inning and Edgar Ito hit one himself in the seventh. Asahi scored two runs in the seventh but it was enough to clinch the win when Man Amigos failed to add any runs in their last

In the Hagu La'mun versus Momma Charo game, the former managed to hold on

In MSL 1, MPU FC slipped

It was an evenly matched

game as both teams took turns

First blood was drawn by

Paire's Philip Megino in the

26th minute. Six minutes later,

MPU's Dylan Mister replied

Paire's Eric Barajas took the

lead again in the 42nd minute,

but MPU equalized the game

ma Charo drew first blood.

Momma Charo had a seven-run first inning with consecutive RBI singles from the top to the middle of the lineup, but Hagu La'mun showed up with the oomph in the third inning.

In their turn to attack, Hagu La'mun put up two in the second inning and nine in the third.

Sidney Camacho led it off

with a walk and was immediately brought home after Tim Wesley's triple. A double by Dennis Cruz in turn brought him home and John Acosta hit a triple of his own. Three singles were made when Ben Camacho

hit a three-RBI home run.

Momma Charo could only conjure two runs in the second and third and the game was now in favor of Hagu La'mun, 11-9.

Both teams had a hard time scoring runs in the last innings as Momma Charo only produced four—which was insufficient as Hagu La'mun's three runs in the last inning was enough to secure the win by one run.

Peleliu 18, **Tuturamz 13**

Peleliu continued their hot streak and won again, 18-13 against Tuturamz.

A lone home run was made by Peleliu's Ben Hocog but they found ways to put runs on the board with singles through gaps in the Tuturamz's defense.

Tuturamz could not score in three innings while Peleliu scored in all innings except one—but by the fourth inning, Tuturamz was up by three—12-9. However, Tuturamz lost the lead and the win when Peleliu fought back in the last couple innings and scored nine.

Sufa 13, Tokahao 4

Sufa dominated the de-

fending champions Tokahao, 13-4.

Tokahao could only score two in the first inning from a two RBI double by Bruce Norita; and two in the third inning by a two-run home run by Mark Villagomez.

Meanwhile, it was a run frenzy for Sufa once again as Audie Maratita shot a two RBI home run in the first; another home run was made by Mario Aguon in the fifth; and a two-RBI home run by Paul Salalila capped off Sufa's long ball for the day.

Redmen 15, **Aimeliik 1 Time 10**

Aimeliik 1 Time have yet to win but not with lack of effort as they lost to the Redmen, 10-15.

Aimeliik scored one in the first and five in the second to lead by one as the Redmen scored five in the first but none in the second.

However, the Redmen scored four in the third as Aimeliik scored just three. It was the beginning of the end for Aimeliik when the Redmen racked up the runs as Lefty Shiro hit a home run in their three run fourth inning. They scored three more in the fifth and it was enough for the win as Aimeliik scored just one more in the last inning.

NAPU

From Page 36

Rodney Tomei.

but was quickly followed up by a free throw from DMS'

DMS had many chances to tie the game up or take the lead as FMS struggled to add more points, but DMS' missed free throw opportunities led to FMS capitalizing and making a run further into the lead with shots that finally sunk.

In the final minutes of the game, the Tottots managed to close the gap by 4 then 2

points off Horneias and Peters' layups, but a succession of fouls on Basa allowed him five free throws and the Napu Riders secured a bigger lead and eventually the W as

The Tottots have received their first loss in their last game of the regular season with no teams left unscathed heading into the championship tourney.

In other results that day, Saipan Community School defeated Mount Carmel School, 31-23, and ChaCha Ocean View Middle School trounced Tanapag Middle School, 35-1.

double-elimination The tourney started yesterday and will continue today, Friday at 4:45pm. Tomorrow, Saturday, May 13, is the continuation of the tourney at 8:30am with the championship round at 12pm.

FMS 28 – Basa 11, Defang 9, Lucero 2, Duenas 2.

DMS 23 – Peters 11, Hornejas 4, Tomei 3, Fejeran 3, Danis 2.

Scoring halves: 14-8; 28-23.

OLD

From Page 36

Shirley's FC 1 3, MP **United FC 0**

Shirley's FC defeated MP United FC, 3-0.

Ohiraj Chhetri scored the first goal in the 37th minute, followed by a goal in the second half's 44th minute by Jeremiah Benavente, and the last goal was made by Paulo Quidato in the 69th minute.

BIG

From Page 36

Four Seasons Martial Arts & Fitness, won his last fight when he beat Ben Schneider via TKO in the first round of Brawl International 2.

"[I'm] still training here (Rochester), but I will be home on Sunday. I'll just wait patiently for the next opportunity," said Fitial on his plans after MCFC 2 was canceled.

Coming into his fight with Fitial, the 45-year-old, 265-lb Wiuff carried a 78-22 win-loss record with one ending in a nocontest. The 6'2" fighter out of Elite Performance MMA won his last three fights.

Prior to the event's cancellation Med City Fighting Championships co-owner Matthew

Vogt spoke with Saipan Tribune and said that MCFC 2 could serve as a launching pad for more Pacific Islands mixed martial arts fighters to compete under his promotion.

"I haven't been to the islands yet, but I will eventually but we want to have global appeal... We want to also be a gateway for some other international fighters to fight in the United States. To get some international credibility and give opportunities for fighters to be seen. It ultimately depends on how big we get. That's why it's important that you know each of our fights in pay per view because it gives good opportunities for people like Kelvin to get a great payday and also to enhance global appeal," he said.

again in the 44th minute.

MPU took the lead swiftly a minute with Mister's second goal and it stayed that way until the 69th minute when Paire's Rex De Jose tied it up, 3-3.

MPU eventually came out with the W as Dev Bachani made the winning goal in the 81st minute.

In the first game of Sunday, Hana FC forfeited against Kanoa FC.

HELL

From Page 35

pants must navigate 4,900 feet of ascents, including steep climbs and fast descents, making it a true test of endurance and skill. The event is open to both amateur and professional riders.

"The Hell of the Marianas is a unique and challenging event that showcases the beauty of Saipan while pushing cyclists to their limits," said Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation president Vince Seman of the. "The event is a great example of how sports can be used to bring people together and make a positive impact. We're excited to welcome cyclists from around the world to participate in this year's race and take on the ultimate

challenge."

Prizes will be awarded to winners in various categories. Participants will also receive a race t-shirt and entry to the awards banquet.

The race has become an important part of Saipan's sporting and cultural scene and has helped raise awareness of the island's unique natural beauty and cultural heritage.

This 100-km bike race takes cyclists to hell and back on the toughest bike course in Micronesia. Begun in 2007, the Hell is considered the ultimate race with professional athletes arriving from Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Russia, Australia, Guam, and elsewhere to participate.

For more information, contact NMI Cycling Federation President Vince Seman at nmicycling@gmail.com. (PR)

CHAMBER

From Page 35

members, on-course refreshments, and post-tournament refreshments.

The tournament showtime is at 6am and shotgun starts at 7am on Saturday, May 27, followed by the awards banquet.

The registration fee for each team is \$280, and tickets for amazing raffle prizes will be available for purchase during registration and throughout the tournament.

Registration forms for players are accessible for download on the Saipan Chamber website (www.saipanchamber.com), LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (front desk), and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office located at the Marianas Business Plaza,

2nd Floor, Suite 201-A. The Chamber encourages golfers to submit their forms and fees by Friday, May 12, 2023, at the Chambe office to simplify their day-of check-in and facilitate payment of registration, raffle tickets, and optional play contests before the tournament.

The Chamber appreciates the ongoing support of its generous members, golfers, and volunteers, and eagerly anticipates hosting an exciting event for a worthy cause.

For more information about the event or the Chamber, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ saipanchamber, visit our office in the Marianas Business Plaza Suite 201-A (Susupe), or contact Tasha Bahillo @ t.bahillo@saipanchamber.org or call our office at (670) 234-7150. **(PR)**

S P O R T S FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 **35** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The growth of FIBA PLUS Fundamentals remains ongoing





COAST, Australia—The

FIBA PLUS Fundamentals workshop, which is a crucial component of FIBA's current strategic priority to Empower National Federations, arrived in Gold Coast, Australia.

Aligned with the FIBA Global Strategy, the FIBA Plus Fundamentals program supports empowering national federations through interactive seminars.

Last May 7 and 8, the program ran multiple sessions of six key areas led by multiple speakers with the objective of providing the Federations with important tools to organize personalized programs in their regions.

FIBA Oceania executive director Amanda Jenkins welcomed the inclusion of FIBA Plus as an extension of the Zone Assembly.

"FIBA Plus plays a pivotal role in our region with national federations eager to learn more about how they can grow and develop basketball with executive structure and



FIBA PLUS facilitator Florian Pasquet leads a session earlier this month in Gold Coast, Australia.

future planning," Jenkins said. "Basketball for Good is an integral program for our federations and FIBA Plus enables eral speakers guided these

delegates to discuss and access resources to further support pro-

federations gram development and sustainability."

The program, which was attended by 12 national federations, hosted an agenda focusing on the following areas: governance and operation, strategic planning,

grassroots basketball, coaches and officials, 3x3 basketball, and income generation. Sevgive-and-take

>> Offers continued sessions. During the weekend, the extensive

schedule also

explored the significance of 3x3 basketball, a fundamental pillar of FIBA, along with Olympic Solidarity and the impactful "Basketball For Good" initiatives led by the FIBA Foundation.

"FIBA Plus is a great op-

portunity to provide our National Federations with access and support to further expand their capabilities within their respective countries," said Program facilitator Florian Pasquet. "We conduct this program around the world, and it has been a privilege to share and empower the national federations of Oceania with these resources."

The two-day program also carried out an analysis of the current situation of the National Federations, their development, projects, goals and objectives at present and in the

future, as well as the action plans for each of them to execute in their countries.

"The FIBA Plus workshop was super enjoyable," said James Lee from the Northern Mariana Islands. "Being able to meet the National Federations in Oceania across the workshop and it was interesting to hear about the different challenges from the region. I look forward to taking the learnings from FIBA Plus back to the Northern Marianas to further develop and sustain basketball growth on the island."

Samoa representative Sarah Lee Malaesilia added "I am so proud to be here, it was a great reach their full potential. (PR)

experience and I have learned a lot from these workshops. It really helped me as a Samoa sports administrator and grew my knowledge. When I go back home, I will share all that learning with my board members so we can further develop our structure."

FIBA PLUS has been successfully delivering tailormade programs to National Federations since 2019. It is an umbrella of programs designed to assist National Federations in the development of basketball in their country by helping them implement a sustainable strategic focus and

Chamber 14th Annual Golf Tournament on May 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joung Hoon Park and Sang Ho Kang pose with Saipan Chamber of Commerce officials after receiving their first place check for topping the low gross division of the 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Join the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for its upcoming annual

tournament on May 27 at the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

This fundraising event supports the Chamber's Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance to local students pursuing higher education and other SCC programs that benefit the community.

The tournament offers golfers of all skill levels the opportunity to compete for fantastic cash prizes, including \$800 for first place, \$650 for second place, and \$500 for third place. Additionally, players will receive complimentary swag bags courtesy of Chamber See CHAMBER on Page 34

Hell of The Marianas Century Cycle returns Dec. 2

support to

Pacific national



The Hell of the Marianas, one managing director Christopher of the toughest cycling events A. Concepcion. "We are startin the Pacific region, is set to ing the work early this year return on Dec. 2, 2023. This to allow ample time for ingrueling road race, held on the ternational cyclists to join the

island of Saipan in The Marianas, attracts cyclists from around the

world to take on the island's ticipation alongside our local challenging terrain.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority is pleased to again join features a 100-kilometer with the Northern Mariana course that winds its way Islands Cycling Federation through Saipan's hills, valleys, in organizing this year's Hell of The Marianas," said MVA

event, and we are

looking forward to rebuilding international par-

The Hell of the Marianas and scenic byways. Partici-

cyclists."

See HELL on Page 34



*40%, 50%, and 60% off applies to your first rental payment. This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: \$9.95 x 12 months= \$517.40. See store for details







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Curry, Warriors force Game 6 by beating Lakers, 121-106.

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The growth of FIBA **PLUS Fundamentals** remains ongoing.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Old B Bank, Tan Holdings notch wins

By LEIGH GASES leigh_gases@saipantribune.com

ld B Bank and Tan Holdings Football Club notched wins in the 2023 Spring Marianas Soccer League 2 and 1 last Friday and Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



Old B Bank won off late goals in the second half against Matan-

sa, 3-1, while Tan Holdings blanked Eleven Tiger, 3-0.

Matansa's Jordan Ruiz drew first blood in the 31st minute after a long and silent game with both teams unable to connect with the goal. The ball flew back and forth on the pitch and with the final minutes of the first half winding down, Old B Bank's John Canape tied the game up in the 39th minute.

A lot of slogging for both teams were done in the second half as goals were hard to come by, but Russelle Zapanta put Old B Bank up by one in the 56th minute. Matansa could not make contact any further as Panapa Peteru made it a 3-1 game in the 74th minute.

MSL 1, on the other hand, tamed Eleven Tiger to zero goals, 3-0.

It was quiet for both teams in the first half as no goals were made for a scoreless draw heading into the second half. But then, Martin Jambor found an opening and put Tan Holdings on the board, 1-0 in the 50th minute.

Teammate Isiah Bergancia followed suit in the 63rd minute, with the final goal made by Ronnel Ocanada in the 71st minute.

Chang Bai Hu 7, **Women's Development** Team 2

Chang Bai Hu was aggressive at the net and came out with great results as they won, 7-2, against the Women's Development Team.

Xu Ming Gueng scored the The Tan Holdings team of first goal in the 23rd minute,

but WDT's Khristelle Itaas immediately equalized in the 28th minute.

Silence befell the pitch as both teams scrambled to get out of the draw, but it wasn't until later in the second half's 45th minute did Chang Bai Hu take the lead with Joe Wang's goal.

Wang ended completing a hat-trick and the other goals were contributed by Ming Zhe Li, Xiao Jeng Lin, and one more goal by Gueng.

The second and last goal by WDT was made by Summer Manahane in the 73rd minute.

See OLD on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Old B Banks' John Canape, left, goes up against an MPU player during one of their games in the Marianas Soccer League 1 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville

'The Big Hit' frustrated with cancellation of MCFC 2

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial couldn't hide disappoint-

ment with the cancellation of MCFC 2 where he was supposed to take on Travis "Diesel" Wiuff this Saturday, May 13, at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota.

"The fight has been called off... I'm frustrated but

what can I do? It's out of my control... A lot of stuff didn't pull through," he told Saipan Tribune.

39-year-old, The 250-pounder even vowed to knock out Wiuff in the main event of MCFC 2.

"I'm so bummed because I trained hard for this fight. I was ready," he added.

Fitial is coming into the scrapped pay-per-view fight with a record of 15 wins, 13 losses, and two draws. The 6'3" brawler, fighting out of

See BIG on Page 34



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, right, strikes a pose with cornerman Keir Agda during a break in training in Rochester, Minnesota.

Vapu Riders holds off Tottots, 28-24

By LEIGH GASES



Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Napu Riders held off erstwhile unde-

feated DanDan Middle School Tottots in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 last Monday.

In a raucous Marianas High School Gymnasium full of supporters for both teams that made it seem like it was the finale, the Tottots' aggressive defense ended up being their kryptonite as they allowed the Napu Riders to shoot multiple back-to-back free throws in the last minutes of the game and pull away with the win, 28-24.

The game was evenly matched from the jump ball as No. 1 seed Tottots took on No.



Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Peyton Jake Basa is fouled while attempting a shot by DanDan Middle School's Matthew Peters during their last regular season game of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 on Monday.

3 seed Napu Riders in what was to be the last regular game of the season—with both powerful defensive teams.

The first half showcased just how strong their defenses were as low scores were registered for both teams-the Napu Riders caused many blocking fouls that allowed the Tottots to score 6 of their 8 points off free throws; the Tottots' Matthew Peters scored their one field goal.

Two wide open 3-pointers were made by Dany Defang and complemented by rush plays at the basket by Peyton Jake Basa and a free throw by Andrei Derek Tenorio.

The second half was a stalemate for a couple of minutes as both teams ran to and fro in the court without either scoring a basket. Finally, Basa broke through for a 16-8 game

See NAPU on Page 34